

IOWA BIRD LIFE

IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION



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IOWA BIRD LIFE

The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. Iowa Bird Life and IOU News are quarterly publications of the Union.

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Meet an Iowa Birder — Jay Gilliam

Robert I. Cecil



Jay Gilliam

If there is one thing Jay Gilliam would like you to know about him, it's that, first, he's a birder. Since most people know him from his stunning bird photos in *IBL* and elsewhere, convincing them that his photography is secondary is going to be a tough sell.

Jay was born on 1 Dec 1965, and spent his younger years in the Italian enclave on Des Moines's south side. With names on his mother's side like Izzolena and Fucaloro, he fit right in — immersed in the Italian culture, "related to everyone." He notes, however, that things were rough there, with many of his friends getting into problems with the law and few going on to college. Despite the lack of natural areas to explore, Jay somehow became interested in the natural world, especially insects, and told the story of finding some larvae swimming in a puddle. He brought them home in a jar to see what would happen — they promptly hatched into mosquitoes, to his mother's chagrin, because he had not put the

lid on. He also took occasional trips to his uncle's farm in Indianola where he hunted, explored, and fished, widening his horizons even more.

During high school, he and his family moved to Dubuque. The nearby river and wooded hills gave him new habitats to experience while fishing, exploring, and downhill skiing. He graduated from high school at Dubuque with high honors. Meanwhile, his interest in science and the outdoors grew, and he became the first in his family to attend college. At Iowa State University, he decided to major in chemistry to fulfill his dream of discovering new medicines. Two years later, his dream took him to the University of Iowa School of Pharmacy, where his academic excellence continued but his money did not, and he was forced to drop out. After a couple of years working construction in the Des Moines area, he decided to repursue his degree. Easing back into academia, he started out at Grandview College in Des Moines, where he found a class in DNA manipulation especially fascinating. The following semester, he applied to Drake University where he received a full scholarship to study chemistry with an emphasis in biochemistry. He notes with a laugh that for one of his courses, they didn't have a qualified instructor available. His advisor, recognizing his maturity compared to other underclass mates (and, presumably, his academics), asked him to teach the class he had enrolled in. As Jay puts it, "it was an easy A." For Jay, there were a lot of "As" at Drake — he graduated Summa Cum Laude in 1994.

While at Drake, he began working as an intern at Pioneer Hi-Bred where he isolated microbial proteins in the search for antifungal properties that could be used for disease resistance in corn. Following his graduation, he was selected for full time employment from candidates from around the world. His tenure at Pioneer has involved many successes, including 19 U.S. and six international patents as a result of his work. He points

out that he must immediately assign the patents to Pioneer, for which he used to receive \$1 each, but now gets a paperweight or a T-shirt emblazoned with “Inventor of the Year.” He prefers the T-shirts.

It was lunchtime at Pioneer that focused Jay’s interest in natural history on birds. Venturing out to nearby Terra Pond, he noticed that there were a lot of ducks there and that they weren’t all the same. Jay went to the bookstore and bought the best guide he could find — the *National Geographic Guide to the Birds of North America* — and went to work. While identifying them, he noticed a Canada Goose with a metal leg band. The next time at Terra, he brought some corn from work to lure the bird close enough to read it with his binoculars, but it took several tries before he was able to finally get all the numbers. After sending the information in to the Bird Banding Lab at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, he learned that the bird had been banded 17 years before by Guy Zenner of the Iowa DNR. “That got me going,” said Jay, and he bought a spotting scope to look for more bands. Reading bands with a scope proved challenging, so he began tabulating what numbers he could read and tried to make out the rest on subsequent visits. Using the same technique, over the next three years he managed to record the band numbers on more than 200 birds, making him one of the nation’s most prolific reporters in the country of noncaptured or killed birds. “One thing that’s cool,” he observed, “is how many birds returned to Terra year after year.” One day at Terra when he had found a Ross’s Goose, he noticed a couple of other birders and told them about it. Ann Johnson and Jim Sinclair told him that he couldn’t be correct, but that if he was, he would have to document it. After asking “What’s document?” Jay reported his first Iowa bird, and was, of course, correct in his identification. They also told him about the Iowa Ornithologists’ Union (IOU) and in 1996 he became a member. While continuing his working lunches at Terra, he began to notice other birds — the birding bug had started to bite. Favorites among most of Iowa’s waterfowl and shorebird species included a “gorgeous” adult male Mandarin Duck (presumably in the former ownership of a waterfowl collector) and a Red Knot, one of three he found in 2003. Another Terra moment, a dazzling glimpse of a male Eastern Bluebird, set into motion another passion — his bluebird trail south of Cumming. The first year, he set out three boxes and fledged several birds. The next year, there were seven boxes, then 21, and then 75. “That was a busy winter, building boxes.” He continues to maintain the trail, and has fledged over 600 bluebirds and 500 Tree Swallows.

Fortunately, the “loner” that Jay described himself as a youth has not carried over to his involvement with birding. He has become increasingly active in the IOU, submitting his first field report in 1999. His interest in the importance of conservation issues prompted him to develop an IOU action plan and submit it to the IOU Board in November 2002. “In appreciation, I was asked to serve on the Conservation Committee and then, a few months later, to chair it.” Jay notes that the committee, reformulated and renamed the Projects Committee to more accurately describe its purpose, is now actively pursuing its mission. In May 2004, Jay was elected to the IOU Board of Directors. He has also written articles for *Iowa Bird Life*, including “What Was That Brown Blur? Tips for Identifying Taiga and Prairie Race Merlins” (2005), “Tool Use by Red-headed Woodpecker” (2003), and an article in this issue on an unusual winter concentration of Bald Eagles in Jones County (2005).

Jay is also an active birder. Early on, he concentrated his birding in Iowa — he now has 319 species on his Iowa list, adding Great Gray Owl, Northern Hawk-Owl, Black-bel-

lied Whistling-Duck, Smith's Longspur, Barn Owl, Vermilion Flycatcher, Bewick's Wren, Veery, Chuck-will's Widow, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Iceland Gull, and Red-necked Grebe so far in 2005. More recently, he has ranged farther a field with trips to Southeast Arizona, the North Carolina coast, several trips to Minnesota, two to Colorado, to Michigan to see the Kirtland's Warbler, plus trips to Tamaulipas and Oaxaca, Mexico; overall, his travels have resulted in a life list of 576 species. His top goal is a trip to Alaska, although he is adamant that he is going to Costa Rica this coming winter, no matter what, and he is even brushing up on his Spanish at a night class. And then there's the goal of making it back to Mexico at least once a year.

Photography became a part of Jay's life when he was in high school. In the ensuing years, he took "tons of photos" of birds, mammals, and flowers with the first of several 35-mm cameras, and later included astrophotography, with such favored subjects as the Hale-Bopp Comet. In August 2002, he "went digital," and since then has taken over 65,000 photos, "95% of them of birds." Inspired by Kent Nickell who came to photograph a probable escapee Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Jay began digiscoping, which involves taking photos through a spotting scope. Jay rapidly excelled at this technique, producing many of the stunning shots seen in *Iowa Bird Life*. One, the Rough-legged Hawk on the spring 2004 (IBL 74[2]) cover, prompted a congratulatory e-mail from Brian Wheeler, author and photographer of several well-known books about raptors. He received another positive e-mail from Brian about the beautiful Krider's Hawk cover photo on IBL 75(1). At Brian's request, Jay has provided Brian with many photos of this bird for use in the new book on hawks that Brian is writing and illustrating for Princeton University Press. With Kent Nickell, Jay presented a program on digiscoping at an IOU meeting and has an article on it on the IOU web site. Last year, he expanded his tool kit to include a digital single lens reflex camera, supplementing his digiscoping. In addition to *Iowa Bird Life*, his photos have now appeared on the Biodiversity Institute and the Missouri Birds web sites, *North American Birds*, and elsewhere. His work has also been on Channel 8 TV News, which showed photos of the nesting Peregrine Falcons he discovered at the Iowa State Capital while looking for the Western Kingbirds. Jay has since been active in the DNR's efforts to monitor this pair, the second in Des Moines. Jay freely distributes his photos: his only goal is people's enjoyment of them. This year, for example, his White Pelican photo is on the 2005 Nongame Program Support Certificate in a limited edition of 1,000. Recognizing his contributions, Jay was nominated for the DNR's Wildlife Diversity Program volunteer of the year in 2004.

Jay's interests are wide-ranging. He can tell you much about the native flora and fauna if you can get him to suppress his innate modesty. He is also interested in storm chasing ("I like to try new things."), a challenge that he couples with photography. Giving into his desire to see a tornado, he headed out into a storm on an afternoon in May 2004, while John Bissell was back in Des Moines watching the radar on TV and guiding Jay to it by cell phone. Racing west on I-80 and then south past Adel, Jay spotted three of them. John wanted to maneuver him closer to one of them. "I don't think so! That's why I have a zoom on the camera!" Suddenly, Jay realized he was nearly underneath one. "It came so close to me that it sucked the lens cap of my camera out of my truck and the hat off my head." Being a photographer (not a birder), he did what any photographer would do. He stopped, got out, and took a video. "I was scared," he admitted. The next evening, the video appeared on Channel 8 News, but Jay's audio was not included. So, would he do it

again? Jay says that the experience whetted, not dampened his enthusiasm for storm-chasing and that he was looking forward to this year's storm season.

It is hopefully premature to write this — not only have the final chapters of Jay contributions to the IOU, to conservation efforts, and to photography not been written — the ink is still wet on the opening lines. However, I have a sense that his good humor, intellectual intensity, and appetite for “new things” will continue to give us reasons to revisit his achievements in the years to come.

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Field Reports — Winter 2004–2005

Robert I. Cecil

WEATHER

It wasn't too bad. Not exactly shirtsleeves and golf, but better than usual. December's extreme temperatures ranged from -18 degrees on the 24th in Northwood to 67 degrees at the end of the month at Glenwood. All of this combined to produce the 39th warmest December in 132 years of records. Precipitation was below average at 0.58 inches, 0.65 inches less than normal, making it the 25th driest year. Snowfall was almost nonexistent. January temperatures were above average, but barely — it was the 61st warmest in 132 years of records. Temperatures ranged from -20 degrees at Spencer and Sibley on the 15th and the 17th at Waterloo to 61 degrees at Leon on the 25th. Precipitation totaled 1.38 inches, 0.43 inches above normal, with most of the snow occurring in the northeast quadrant. February, in contrast to recent winters, got better instead of worse. Temperatures were 6.9 degrees above normal, producing the 15th warmest winter in 133 years of records. The lowest temperature was only -5 degrees at Guthrie Center and Atlantic on the 10th — the high temperature was 67 degrees at Sioux Center on the 4th. Precipitation totaled 1.65 inches, 0.67 inches above normal, producing the 20th wettest February. Snowfall was relatively light since the warmer temperatures mainly resulted in rain.



Robert I. Cecil

GENERAL TRENDS

In contrast to recent winters, there were fewer reports of lingering and wintering waterfowl. The first migrants were present by mid-February and virtually all waterfowl species were reported by the end of the period. Raptors were reported in typical numbers except for Merlins, which seem to be increasing. An unusually high ten species of gulls were reported, probably the combined result of a good season and more skill and confidence among observers. As everyone knows, something happened far to our north, sending its owls our direction and our Iowans in their direction. Among the owls, Short-eared Owls were virtually unreported — whether this is an aberration or a trend needs to be determined. A second species that was nearly unreported was Red-headed Woodpecker — probably not an aberration. The ever popular Red-breasted Nuthatch was widespread and in good numbers. The semihardy species of wrens, thrushes, and mimids remained in their usual very small numbers, although sparrows did not. Finally, the more expected winter finches all appeared in northern Iowa, but in very small numbers except for Pine Siskin, which made a good showing.

UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Accidental species reported included Northern Hawk Owl, Great Gray Owl, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Hoary Redpoll. Casual species included California Gull, Iceland Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Townsend's Solitaire, and Bohemian Waxwing. Among unusual winter records, the most amazing was of a four heron season including American Bittern, Great Egret, and Black-crowned Night-Heron.

SPECIES DATA

All CAPS = Casual or Accidental species. * = documented. County names are in italics. Full names of contributors are at the end of the article. Abbreviations used: **A** = area, **L** = lake, **m.ob.** = many observers, **NA** = nature area, **NWR** = national wildlife refuge, **P** = park, **R** = river, **RA** = recreation area, **Res** = reservoir, **SF** = state forest, **Sl** = slough, **SP** = state park, **USNWR** = Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge, **WPA** = waterfowl production area, **WA** = wildlife area.

Greater White-fronted Goose: Early returning migrants included 12 on 6 Feb in *Appanoose* (RLC) and 55 on 12 Feb in *Louisa* (BSc). The high counts by far were on 26 Feb: 1,000 at Hawkeye *WA Johnson* (CRE) and 300 at Owego Wetlands *Woodbury* (BFH).

Snow Goose: Returning migrants included 15 on 27 Feb at Hendrickson *M Story* (HZ).

Ross's Goose: All: 1 on 18 Dec *Woodbury* (BFH), 1 on 18 Dec *Pottawattamie* (LJP/BKP), and 4 on 25 Feb at Pool 19 *Lee* (SJD).

Cackling Goose: There were two reports that provided some details of identification: 54 on 26 Feb at Owego Wetlands *Woodbury* (BFH) and 36 on 27 Feb at Robison *WA Story* (SSP). I think it makes sense to follow Paul Hertzels lead in asking that details be provided for this newly separated species, at least until we become more knowledgeable of its status in Iowa and more confident in our ability to identify it.

Mute Swan: The only post-CBC report was a Des Moines bird that lingered into Jan (RCe).

Trumpeter Swan: There were six December reports of 17 birds in Lee, Cerro Gordo, Monona, Iowa, Polk, and Pottawattamie, and a single mid-winter report of 2 on 19 Jan in *Winnebago* (PH). Migrants appeared with 6 on 13 Feb in Kossuth (MCK) and 8 on 17 Feb in *Warren* (JG). The most was 13 on 19 Feb in *Warren* (JG).

Tundra Swan: All: 1 on 16 Dec at *Saylorville Res* (SSP). The only CBC report was of 857 at Clinton.

Wood Duck: A lingering single on 24 Dec *Jefferson* (DiP) was the last of the early winter reports. Unusual was 1 on 8 Jan at *Saylorville Res* (DK). Returning were 3 on 19 Feb at *Ada Hayden P Story* (WO).

Gadwall: Wintering were 24 in *Allamakee* (DK), and there were 28 on 15 Jan in *Dickinson* (LAS). Migrants appeared with 10 on 16 Feb in *Fremont* (LJP/BKP).

American Wigeon: The only mid-winter report was of 3 on 10 Jan at *Diamond L Poweshiek* (MPR). Migrants included 5 on 16 Feb at *Riverton A Fremont* (LJP/BKP) and 2 on 21 Feb at *Hawkeye WA Johnson* (CJC, CRE).

American Black Duck: There were 11 reports of 1 to 5 birds. As in recent years, they were rather evenly distributed around the state and throughout the season.

Mallard: All: 3,000 on 3 Feb on *Brown's L Woodbury* (GLV) and 1,000 on 26 Feb at *Jester P Polk* (JB). These numbers are way below those of recent years.

Blue-winged Teal: All: 1 juv male on 1 Dec at *Ada Hayden P Story* (SJD-details, JJD-details).

Northern Shoveler: There were 6 on 25 Feb at *Pool 19 Lee* (SJD) and 3 on 27 Feb at *L Manawa Pottawattamie* (LJP/BKP).

Northern Pintail: Mid-winter reports included 2 on 3 Feb *Linn* (BSc) and 1 on 5 Feb *Polk* (JB). Returnees included 1 on 14 Feb at *Ada Hayden P*

Story (WO) and 300 on 16 Feb at *Riverton WA Fremont* (LJP/BKP).

Green-winged Teal: All: 3 on 31 Dec at *Montrose Lee* (CRE), 1 on 14 Feb at *Ada Hayden P Story* (WO), and 4 on 26 Feb at *Hawkeye WA Johnson* (CRE).

Canvasback: Mid-winter reports included 2 on 10 Jan at *Diamond L Poweshiek* (MPR) and 1 on 19 Jan–10 Feb at *Lansing Allamakee* (DK). Up to 40,000 were at their usual *Pool 19-Lee* staging area at the end of the period (RLC, CRE, SJD).

Redhead: Late were singles on 29 Dec in *Scott* (MCD), 6 Jan in *Story* (WO), and 12 Jan in *Polk* (DK). Probably wintering was 1 on 10 Feb *Allamakee* (DK), and returning were 20 on 16 Feb in *Fremont* (LJP/BKP) and 3 on 16 Feb in *Story* (WO). Peak counts included 32 on 19 Feb in *Woodbury* (GLV), 39 on 27 Feb in *Polk* (BE), and 48 on 28 Feb in *Lee* (RLC).

Ring-necked Duck: Unusual was 1 on 10 Jan at *Diamond L Poweshiek* (MPR). Other mid-winter reports included 6 on 5 Feb at *Ada Hayden P Story* (WO), 1 on 5 Feb at *Maffitt Res Polk* (JB), and 1 on 6 Feb at *L Manawa Pottawattamie* (LJP/BKP). Returnees arrived the third week of Feb.

Greater Scaup: The first and the most by far were 49 on 5 Dec at *Spirit L Dickinson* (ET). One on 13 Jan at *Diamond L Poweshiek* (MPR) was the only mid-winter report. Migrants included 4 on 25 Feb at *Pool 19 Lee* (SJD-details), up to 9 on 26 Feb at *Jester P Polk* (SJD, JG), 6 on 27 Feb at *Pool 14 Scott* (CJC), and 2 on 27 Feb at *L Sugema Van Buren* (SJD-details).

Lesser Scaup: The only mid-winter reports were 2 on 19 Jan at *Lansing Allamakee* (DK) and 4 on 22 Jan at *Saylorville Res* (DTh). There were 492 on 25 Feb at *Pool 19 Lee* (SJD); migrants appeared at three other locations on 26 Feb.

Surf Scoter: All: 2 on 7 Dec at Bettendorf *Scott* (JLF) and 1 on the Keokuk CBC.

Black Scoter: All: 1 on 7 Dec at Bettendorf *Scott* (JLF), 1 on 11 Dec at W Okoboji Lake *Dickinson* (LAS), and 2 on the Keokuk CBC.

Long-tailed Duck: All: 1 on 11 Dec at Saylorville Res, 3 on 27 Dec at Pool 19 *Lee* (DP), and 1 on 25 Feb at Pool 19 *Lee* (SJD).

Bufflehead: There were no reports after the CBC period except for small numbers of migrants which returned 25–28 Feb to six locations.

Common Goldeneye: Most: 210 on 18 Dec at Port Neal *Woodbury* (BFH), 1,200 on 15 Jan at Pool 14 *Scott* (DAK), 160 on 2 Feb at Maffitt Res *Polk* (JG), and 410 on 25 Feb at Pool 19 *Lee* (SJD).

Hooded Merganser: The high count was 11 on 16 Jan at Cedar L Linn (DAK); the only other January report was 1 on the 19th in *Cerro Gordo* (RGo). Two on 10 Feb at Lansing *Allamakee* (DK) may have been wintering. Migrants appeared on 17 Feb with 3 at Maffitt Res *Polk* (JG).

Common Merganser: The most were 700 on 19 Dec at Saylorville Res (JB), 470 on 1 Jan at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* (LJP/BKP), and 300 on 15 Jan at L&D 14 *Scott* (DAK).

Red-breasted Merganser: There four reports in the southern half of the state; the last lingered until 1 Jan at Lake Manawa *Pottawattamie* (LJP/BKP). Migrants included 1 on 25 Feb at Pool 19 *Lee* (SJD) and 5 on 27 Feb at Saylorville Res (BE).

Ruddy Duck: There were no reports from 1 Jan to 26 Feb when 1 appeared at Owego Wetlands *Woodbury* (BFH). There were 5 on 27 Feb at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* (LJP/BKP).

Gray Partridge: There were 6 reports of 3–16 birds, all from contiguous counties in the north-central part of the state: *Black Hawk*, *Grundy*, *Hamilton*, *Hardin*, and *Story*.

Wild Turkey: There were 102 over three days in Jan in *Cerro Gordo* (PH), and a flock of 54 on 26 Feb on at Waterman Twp *O'Brien* (LAS).

Common Loon: All: 1 on 11 Dec at Spirit L *Dickinson* (LAS), 2 on 14 Dec at Saylorville Res (ABr), 1 on 15 Dec at Coralville L *Johnson* (CF, THK), and 1 on the Rathbun CBC.

Pied-billed Grebe: One was at Cedar L Linn on 16 Jan (DAK); the first migrant was on 19 Feb at Snyder's Bend *Woodbury* (GLV).

Horned Grebe: All: 1 on 1 Dec at Ft. Madison *Lee* (CF), 1 on 10–12 Dec at Saylorville Res (ABr, JG), and 2 on 11 Dec in *Appanoose* (RLC).

American White Pelican: The last stragglers out and the first arrivals back were both at Pool 19 *Lee*: 35 on 27 Dec (DP) and 76 on 25 Feb (SJD).

Double-crested Cormorant: The only report after the CBC period was 1 on 8 Jan at Ottumwa *Wapello* (RLC).

American Bittern: Very unusual was 1 on 2 Jan in *Clay* (LAS). There are about five winter records for this species: this one was a contributor to an unprecedented season for herons.

Great Blue Heron: The most were 12 on 1 and 15 Dec in *Lee* (THK, CF), 7 on 18 Dec at LD18 *Des Moines* (CF), and 8 on 8 Jan at Ottumwa *Wapello* (RLC). Northerly was 1 on 7 Jan at Elk Creek M *Worth* (PH), 3 on 15 Jan at Dubuque *Dubuque* (DAK), and 2 on 19 Jan in *Winneshek* (DK).

Great Egret: Unprecedented was Iowa first winter record of Great Egret, found on the Saylorville CBC.

Black-crowned Night-Heron: For the 7th consecutive winter season, at least one wintered at Cedar L Linn (BSc, DAK, MCD, JLF, DP).

Turkey Vulture: Unusual was 1 on 6–7 Jan in *Fayette* (MD). Early reports were all from Lee: 3 on 24 Feb at Ft. Madison Lee (LJo), 1 on 25 Feb (SJD), and 2 on 28 Feb (RLC). Mid-winter records of this species are very unusual and should be accompanied by details.

Osprey: A report was referred to the Records Committee.

Bald Eagle: The few reports presumably relate to viewer fatigue. There was an ad on a nest on 16 Feb in *Fremont* (LJP/BKP).

Northern Harrier: The most by far was 6 on 27 Dec at Medicine Creek WA Wayne (ABr). There were 11 other reports of single birds after the CBC period, almost all in the southern half of the state.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: There were 11 reports of 12 birds fairly well distributed around the state. One wonders how consistently this and other raptors are reported.

Cooper's Hawk: There were 11 reports of single birds, all relatively evenly distributed around the state and throughout the season.

Northern Goshawk: All: 1 on 5–7 Dec in *Story* (Ken Wiggers fide JJD), 1 on 18–21 Dec in *Story* (LGD), 1 ad and 2 imm together on 30 Jan in *Winneshiek* (DeC, DK), and 1 on 9 Feb in *Polk* (BE).

Red-shouldered Hawk: All: 1 on 8 Dec at Grammar Grove WA Marshall (MPr), 2 through the season at George Wyth SP *Black Hawk* (BSc, DAK, ALB, WO), 1 on 27 Dec at Beaver Valley Wetlands *Black Hawk* (ALB), 1 on 10 Jan in *Tama* (MPr), 1 on 30 Jan at Lake Ahquabi SP Warren (JS), and 1 on 25 Feb in *Madison* (RIA/PHA).

Red-tailed Hawk: Harlan's, Krider's, and dark morph birds were identified.

Rough-legged Hawk: Darwin Koenig found 23 during the season in 7 counties north of I-80. The next high counts were 3 on 16 and 23 Jan at Chichaqua WA *Polk* (DTh), and 4 on 25 Feb at Owego Wetlands Woodbury. There were about 12 other reports of 14 birds. Danny Akers reported that they were three times more common than Red-taileds during the season in Clayton.

Golden Eagle: All: 1 on 1 Dec at Grammar Grove WA Marshall (MPr-details), 1 on 21 Jan–7 Feb at Cardinal M *Winneshiek* (EB), 1 on 30 Jan in *Clayton* (CJC), and 2 on 10 Feb in *Allamakee* (DK).

Merlin: Once again, birds assembled at Glendale Cem in Des Moines. Comparing photos, Jay Gilliam concluded that 9 birds were present during the season. There were 16 other reports, all of single birds, from throughout the season and the state (with a slight bias for the north), overall, a good year.

Peregrine Falcon: Pairs wintered at Des Moines (RCe) and *Davenport* (SMF, CJC). Another, an imm male, was on the ISU campus in Ames from 19 Jan–1 Feb (HZ, WO).

Prairie Falcon: All: 1 on 26 Feb at Owego Wetlands Woodbury (BFH-details). There were also CBC reports of single birds from Des Moines and Westfield.

American Coot: There were 5,000 on 1 Dec at Pool 19 Lee (JLF, THK); large numbers remained through the CBC. Making it at least through mid-January were 3 at Cedar L Linn (DAK). Returning birds were noted on 27 Feb at Pool 19 Lee (CRE).

Sandhill Crane: Unusual was 1 on 7 Jan at *Saylorville* Res (ABr). Migrants included 1 on 24 Feb on the Mississippi R *Allamakee* (FL), and 1 on 26 Feb in *Kossuth* (JG).

Killdeer: Reports following the CBC period included 1 on 17 Jan at Chichaqua WA *Polk* (RIA/PHA), 1 on 19 Jan at the Decorah trout hatchery *Winneshiek* (DeC), and 2 on 2 Feb in *Polk* (DK). Migrants included 1 on 20 Feb at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), 1 on 21 Feb at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (CJC), and 2 on 23 Feb at Sandhill L *Woodbury* (GLV).

Wilson's Snipe: The most northerly were 2 on 19 Jan at the Decorah trout hatchery in *Winneshiek* (DeC) and 1 on 26 Jan in *Allamakee* (DK). Other post-CBC reports came from *Boone* and *Polk*.

American Woodcock: One on 26 Feb in *Jefferson* (DiP-details) was earlier than in recent years.

Bonaparte's Gull: Singles were noted on 1 Dec in *Lee* (JLF) and *Pottawattamie* (LJP/BKP). Another report was referred to the Records Committee.

Ring-billed Gull: The most were 2,600 on 7 Dec at Cedar L *Linn* (JJD), 4,000 on 15 Dec at Saylorville Res (JJD), 5,000 on 26 Feb at Coralville Res (CRE), 7,000 on 26 Feb at Saylorville Res (SJD), and 10,000 on 27 Feb at Credit Island *Scott* (CJC).

CALIFORNIA GULL: The report was referred to the Records Committee.

Herring Gull: Returning birds were noted on 25 Feb at L Manawa *Pottawattamie* (LJP/BKP). The most was 1,000 on 27 Feb at Credit Island *Scott* (CJC).

Thayer's Gull: The first was 1 ad on 22 Dec at LD15 *Scott* (SMF) — up to 6 remained in the Quad Cities area through the season with both adults and first winter birds observed (SMF, CJC, MCD, THK, JLF, DR, RLC). Between 30 Dec and 22 Jan, Aaron Brees estimated that there were at least 13 birds at Des Moines, including 9 juv, one 2nd winter, one 3rd winter, and 2 ad (RCe, DP, WO, JG). Elsewhere, there were at least 2 on 8–19 Jan in *Johnson*, first at Iowa City and then at Coralville

Res (CRE, CJC, DAK, RD, JLF), and 1 ad on 25 Feb at Pool 19 *Lee* (SJD).

ICELAND GULL: The report was referred to the Records Committee.

Lesser Black-backed Gull: All: 1 2nd winter on 11–20 Dec at *Saylorville* Res (JG, WO, SSP), 4 (1 ad, 2 2nd winter and 1st winter) during the season in *Scott* (SMF), and 1 ad on 17–18 Jan at Iowa City/Coralville Res (RD, CJC, JLF, CRE, DP).

Glaucous Gull: The first was 1 1st winter on 5 Dec at East Okobjoi L *Dickinson* (ET). Others included up to 5 (4 1st winter and 1 2nd winter) on 29 Dec–23 Jan in Des Moines (RCe, ABr, JG, CJC, WO, MCK), 1 2nd winter on 10 Jan increasing to 4 (1 3rd winter and 3 1st winter) on the Mississippi R in *Scott* (SMF, m.ob.), and 1 ad and 1 1st winter on 18–23 Jan in Iowa City (RD, m.ob.)

Great Black-backed Gull: All: 1 ad on 29 Dec at Pool 15 *Scott* (SMF-details).

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE: Unusual were three reports: 1 ad. on the Keokuk CBC, 1 1st winter on 26–27 Dec at Red Rock Res (*EW, RSS-photo), and 1 1st winter on 30 Dec at LD14 *Scott* (*CRE).

Eurasian Collared-Dove: Reports of from 1 to 8 birds were received from *Lee*, *Clayton*, *Marshall*, *Cedar*, *Poweshiek*, *Boone*, *Polk*, *Kossuth*, *Adair*, and *Sioux* counties.

Mourning Dove: There were 34 on 20 Feb in *Dickinson* (LAS).

Eastern Screech-Owl: There were the usual scattered reports including one of each phase in *Mason City* (RGo).

Great Horned Owl: A bird at Saylorville Res on 19 Dec was “very pale gray” (JB).

Snowy Owl: All: 1 on 13 Dec in *Kossuth* that was killed by a car (MCK), 1 on 17 Dec in *Tama* (MP), 1 on 19 Dec in *Franklin* (RGo), and 1 on 19 Dec in *Johnson* (JLF, CRE).

NORTHERN HAWK OWL: This was the bird of the season, arguably, but hardly unexpected. Part of a major invasion into Minnesota, this bird, Iowa's second, was near Manly Worth on 14 Feb through the season (*PH-photo, *RGo, *CJF, *RIA/PHA, *CRE, *JB, m.ob.).

GREAT GRAY OWL: Of the huge invasion of this species into Minnesota, at least three made it to Iowa: 1 on 16 Jan for a few days near Madrid in Boone (*JG-photo, *AJ-photo), 1 on 14–15 Feb near Jesup Buchanan (*SC-photo), and 1 on 16–19 Feb in Dickinson (*Jim and Lisa Kraninger-photo). A fourth report was referred to the Records Committee. The Jesup bird was found sitting in the road and was later transferred to the Macbride Raptor Center.

Long-eared Owl: There were 12 reports from throughout the season, most in the eastern half of the state except for 2 on 5 Feb in Plymouth (GLV) and 1 on 12 Feb in Madison (RIA/PHA). The most were 7 on 27 Dec at Medicine Creek WA Wayne (ABr), up to 10 from 2–23 Jan at Hawkeye WA Johnson (JLF, m.ob.), and 6 on 28 Feb in Winneshiek (DK). The most northerly were 1 on 20 Dec Cerro Gordo (PH), and 1 on 2 Feb in Worth (PH) in addition to the Winneshiek birds. Overall, an average year.

Short-eared Owl: All: 1 on 8–22 Dec at Chichaqua WA Polk (JEB), 5 on 8–17 Jan at Owego Wetlands Woodbury (BFH, GLV), 1 on 10 Feb at Diehl Wetlands Warren (JSi), and 1 on 25 Feb at Sweet M Bremer (SJD). This was a down year for this species.

Northern Saw-whet Owl: All: up to 2 through the season at Grammar Grove WA Marshall (MPr/BPr), 1 on 5 Dec and 5–11 Feb at Hawkeye WA Johnson (JLF, MHB), 1 on 20 Dec at Lime Creek NC Cerro Gordo (PH), 1 on 27 Dec and 21 Feb at George Wyth SP Black Hawk (AlB, WO), 1 on 2–9 Jan at Hickory Hill P Johnson

(DP, JLF, CRE), 1 on 17 Jan Worth (PH), and 3 on 12–19 Feb at the Amana properties Iowa (CRE, CJC, DP).

Belted Kingfisher: There were the usual scattered reports from locations with open water.

Red-headed Woodpecker: All: 1 on 10 Feb in Tama (MPr).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Post-CBC reports included 1 on 15 Jan at Brown's L Woodbury (GLV), 1 on 16–28 Jan at Hawkeye WA Johnson (DAk, CJC), and 1 on 26 Feb at Thorp P Winnebago (JG).

Northern Flicker: "Red-shafted" birds included singles on 2 Dec at Sandpiper RA Polk (JG) and 21 Jan at Hawkeye WA Johnson (CJC).

Pileated Woodpecker: There were reports from Johnson, Warren, Polk, Worth, and Chickasaw.

Loggerhead Shrike: All: 2 on 17 Dec in Appanoose (RLC) and 1 on 27 Feb in Van Buren (SJD).

Northern Shrike: There were about 21 reports of 23 birds, about average for recent years. Four birds made it to Polk; none made it farther south,

American Crow: The roost at Ames was estimated at 18,500 (JJD), the same as last year.

Horned Lark: A little early, or a little late, or wintering were mid-winter flocks of 40 on 8 Jan in Woodbury (BFH), 100 on 9 Jan in Story (WO), and 161 on 13 Jan in Hardin (SSP, KLP).

Red-breasted Nuthatch: Many, such as 5 on 26 Dec in Fairmount Cem Scott (MCD), 6 on 31 Dec at Hooper WA Warren (CJC), 12 on 19 Jan at Ledges SP Boone (WO), 6 on 19 Jan at Thorpe P Winnebago (CRE), and 5 on 28 Feb at the State Forest Nursery Story (SSP).

Carolina Wren: There was only 1 report after the CBC period.

Winter Wren: Reports after the CBC period included singles on 16 Jan in Boone

(JS), 16 Jan in *Mahaska* (JS), 26 Jan–9 Feb in *Winnesiek* (DK), 6 Feb in *Des Moines* (MCD), and wintering below the dam at Ahquabi SP *Warren* (JSi).

Marsh Wren: There was 1 on the Keokuk CBC.

Golden-crowned Kinglet: The only report after the CBC period was 2 on 29 Jan at Ledges SP *Boone* (WO). A banded adult female on 4 Dec was wearing the same type of band Katy Patterson used on them in MN during the summer of 2002 (KLP, SSP).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: There was 1 reported on the Eldora-Union CBC.

Eastern Bluebird: There were very few reports.

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE: All: 1 on 5 Dec at Waterman Creek Road *Clay* (DP), 1 on 31 Dec at Brown's L *Woodbury* (BFH), 1 on 26–30 Jan at Toddville *Linn* (BSc, KN, CRE, CJC, DP), 1 on 12–14 Feb at the Floyd Cem *Floyd* (*PH, *RGo), up to 3 on 12–17 Feb at Waterman Twp *O'Brien* (LAS, RIA/PHA), and 1 on 26 Feb at Hitchcock NA *Pottawattamie* (MOr). There were also 3 on the Westfield CBC.

Hermit Thrush: There were 3 on 4 Jan at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JLF). Other mid-winter reports included 1 on 9 Jan in *Warren* (JSi) and 1 on 23 Jan at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JG).

American Robin: One stuck it out for most of the season in *Cerro Gordo* (RGo). Several flocks of up to 50 were reported from the eastern half of the state.

Varied Thrush: All: 1 on 30 Dec–4 Jan at *Iowa City* (CJC, DP, CRE).

Northern Mockingbird: All: 2 on 4 Dec at the Louisa Generating Station *Louisa* (JLF), 1 on 5 Feb at the Decorah trout hatchery *Winnesiek* (DeC), 1 on 23 Dec in *Polk* (BE), and 1 on 29–31 Dec at L *Manawa Pottawattamie* (LJP/BKP).

Brown Thrasher: In addition to 2 CBC reports, there was 1 on 12–15 Jan at Long Grove in *Scott* (*SfI), 1 on 18 Jan at

Iowa City (RD), and 1 on 23 Jan at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (CRE, CJC).

American Pipit: There was 1 on the Cedar Rapids CBC (MCD-details).

BOHEMIAN WAXWING: There was 1 on 6 Dec at Spirit L *Dickinson* (*DP) and 1 on 13 Feb at the State Forest Nursery *Story* (*SSP, *KLP).

Cedar Waxwing: The peak count by far was 323 in a single tree on 28 Jan in *Guthrie* (RIA/PHA).

Yellow-rumped Warbler: Unusual was 1 on 8 Dec in *Kossuth* (MCK). The only report after the CBC period was 1 on 9 Jan at Hooper WA *Warren* (JSi).

Spotted Towhee: All: a female feeding on a deer carcass on 2–31 Jan at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (RD, BSC, DP, KN, m.ob.).

Eastern Towhee: All: 1 on 4 Dec in *Louisa* (JLF).

American Tree Sparrow: There were 250 on 7 Jan in *Winnebago* (PH).

Chipping Sparrow: Either wintering or extraordinarily early was 1 on 27 Feb at Thorpe P *Winnebago* (*SSP, *KLP).

Vesper Sparrow: All: 1 on 23 Dec at Sandpiper RA *Polk* (JG).

Savannah Sparrow: All: 1 on the Saylorville CBC, 1 on 20 Dec at the Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (MCD-details), 3 on 17 Jan at Chichaqua WA *Polk* (RIA/PHA), and 1 on 21 Jan in Mason City *Cerro Gordo* (CJF, RGo, PH).

Le Conte's Sparrow: One of Iowa's few winter records was 1 on 8 Dec at Chichaqua WA *Polk* (JEB-details).

Fox Sparrow: There was 1 report after the CBC period: 1 on 8 Feb in *Appanoose* (RLC).

Song Sparrow: Mid-winter reports from northern Iowa included 1 on 11 Jan at the Shellrock Greenbelt *Cerro Gordo* (PH), 1 on 11 Jan at Pine Lake SP *Hardin* (MPr), 7 on 13 Jan at Anderson L *Hamilton*, and 1 on 21 Jan–21 Feb in Mason City *Cerro Gordo* (CJF, RGo).

Swamp Sparrow: There were no reports after the CBC period.

White-throated Sparrow: Mid-winter reports from the north included 1 wintering in *Clayton* (DAk), 1 on 21 Jan in *Cerro Gordo* (RGo), and 6 on 27 Jan in *Scott* (DR).

Harris's Sparrow: Post-CBC reports included 3 on 5 Jan in *Warren* (AMJ), 1 on 15 Jan in *Cerro Gordo* (PH), and 2 on 13 Feb in *Story* (SSP, KLP).

White-crowned Sparrow: Mid-winter reports included 1 on 16 Jan in *Polk* (DTh) and 1 on 23 Jan in *Johnson* (CJC).

Dark-eyed Junco: Single "Oregon" juncos were on 21 Jan–20 Feb at Mason City *Cerro Gordo* (RGo-details) and during Jan and Feb at *Garnavillo Clayton* (DAk).

Lapland Longspur: After years of telling him there were no Lapland Longspurs in Lee County, Tom Kent finally proved me wrong with 50 on 1 Dec in the Green Bay Bottoms. There were scattered reports of up to 50 birds until the 1,000 on 5 Feb in *Clay* (LAS), 80 on 8 Feb in *Hardin* (MPr), and 315 on 26 Feb in *Winnebago* (RIA/PHA).

Snow Bunting: December flocks of up to 60 were found at Hawkeye WA *Johnson* (JLF, DP, MCD, THK) and up to 40 at *Saylorville Res* (JJJ, DK, JB). Except for 65 on 7 Jan in *Worth* (PH), only small numbers were found during the remainder of the season.

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK: A male appeared briefly on 29 Jan at Danny Aker's feeder *Clayton* (*DAk-photo, CJC).

Red-winged Blackbird: There were 19 on 18 Jan in *Winneshiek* (DK) and 3 on 8 Feb at Big M *Butler* (DK). Migrants appeared on 18–19 Feb in *Jefferson* (DiP) and *Story* (Mike Meetz fide HZ). By 20 Feb, 80 had made it to *Worth* (PH).

Eastern Meadowlark: One was identified by call notes on 29 Jan in *Poweshiek* (DK), 1 was singing on 27 Feb

in *Story* (SSP-details), and 1 was singing on 27 Feb in *Van Buren* (SJD).

Western Meadowlark: Singing birds were first noted on 21 Feb in *Johnson* (CRE).

Meadowlark sp.: Peak counts were several flocks of up to 10 on 16 Jan in *Polk* (DTh), 20 on 21 Jan in *Warren* (Kevin Holme fide HZ), and 19 on 23 Jan in *Boone* (SSP).

Rusty Blackbird: The most was 65 on 19 Dec in *Dallas* (JJJ). Mid-winter reports included 1 on 18 Jan in *Winneshiek* (DK), 3 on 8 Feb in *Appanoose* (RLC), and 20 on 12 Feb at Rock Grove Cem in *Floyd* (PH, RGo). Small numbers trickled in on 17 and 19 Feb.

Brewer's Blackbird: All: 4 on 15 Dec at Chichaqua WA *Polk* (JEB-details) and 1 on 9 Jan in *Warren* (JS).

Common Grackle: Small numbers appeared at the end of the period.

Great-tailed Grackle: All: 4 on 18 Dec at Brown's L *Woodbury* (BFH), 7 on 10 Jan at Otter Creek M *Tama* (MPr), 17 on 29 Jan in *Warren* (RIA/PHA), and 38 on 20 Feb at Brown's L *Woodbury* (GLV).

Purple Finch: There were seven reports after the CBC period, all from the northern half of the state. The most were 14 on 10 Feb in *Winneshiek* (DK), and 18 on 13 Feb at *Garnavillo Clayton* (DAk).

House Finch: High counts included 97 on 5 Jan at Spirit Lake *Dickinson* (ETh) and 180 on 22 Jan in *Garnavillo Clayton* (DAk).

Red Crossbill: All: 14 on 3 Feb at Diamond L *Poweshiek* (DK), 1 on 8 Feb at Long Grove *Scott* (*SFL), and 2 on 14 Feb through the period at Thorpe P *Winnebago* (BSc, m.ob.).

White-winged Crossbill: All: 4 on 15 Jan at the Sheldon Cem *O'Brien* (LAS), and 1 on 12 Feb at the Rock Grove Cem *Floyd* (PH, RGo).

Common Redpoll: All: 1 on 16 Dec at Thorpe P *Winnebago* (LSR), 3 on 7 Jan at Spirit Lake *Dickinson* (ETH), 1 on 8 Jan–5 Feb at Johnston *Polk* (DT), 1 on 11 Jan–4 Feb in *Dallas* (RIA/PHA), up to 3 on 12 Jan–1 Feb at Mason City *Cerro Gordo* (PH, RGo, CJF), 1 on 22 Jan and 20 Feb at Garnavillo *Clayton* (DAK), 2 on 12 Feb at Rock Grove Cem *Floyd* PH, RGo), 1 on 13 Feb at the State Forest Nursery *Story* (SSP, KLP), 1 on 13 Feb in *Winneshiek* (DeC), and 1 on 21 Feb in *Tama* (MPr).

HOARY REDPOLL: A report was referred to the Records Committee.

Pine Siskin: The high count was 47 on 13 Feb at Garnavillo *Clayton* (DAK). There were about 15 other reports of up to 8 birds from throughout the season, all from the northern half of the state except for 2 on 6 Feb at Macbride A *Johnson* (CRE).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow: Up to 3 were at the Hawkeye WA in *Johnson* (THK, DAK, m.ob.). The only other report was 10 on 2 Feb at their usual location in *Muscatine* (JLF).

CONTRIBUTORS

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In addition, Dick Bierman of Cherokee, Sara Bissell of West Burlington, CrisDee Plambek of Glenwood, and Robin Strickler of Dubuque provided reports that were used in species summaries.

COMMENT

The new data entry program designed by Ann Johnson gives Iowa probably the best such system in the country. It has increased the number of persons reporting as well as the volume of reports. This season, about 55 of the 66 reporters entered their observations electronically. Keep in mind that you are able to enter data at any time during the season, so you can maintain a continuous record of your sightings. Because of the ease with which details can be entered into the electronic report, many were received, but many described the circumstances of the observation rather than the bird itself. Perhaps related is that while many birders saw some of our special rarities this season, relatively few submitted documentations. It is important to submit documentation or, as appropriate, details even when many others have seen the same bird. It will give future researchers more information of the duration of the stay, behaviors, habitat, and other useful information.



First-year California Gull, below Saylorville spillway on the Des Moines River, Polk Co., 12 Dec 2004. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.



First-year Glaucous Gull, one of several uncommon gulls found on the Des Moines River below the Center St. dam in downtown Des Moines, Polk Co., 8 Jan 2005. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.



Second-year Kumlien's Iceland Gull, below Burlington St. dam on Iowa River in Iowa City, Johnson Co., 23 Jan 2005. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.



First-year Lesser Black-backed Gull that stayed around the area for more than two weeks, photographed at Johnston gravel pits, Polk Co., 20 Dec 2004. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.



First-year Thayer's Gull, one of several Thayer's that was below the Center Street dam in downtown Des Moines, Polk Co., 8 Jan 2005. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.



Prairie Falcon, yearly visitor to Pioneer's research fields in Johnston, Polk Co. Found on the Des Moines CBC, 2 Jan 2005. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.



Long-eared Owl, Badger Creek RA, Madison Co., 12 Feb 2005. Photograph by Reid Allen, Des Moines, IA.



Townsend's Solitaire, Waterman Area, O'Brien Co., 17 Feb 2005. Photograph by Reid Allen, Des Moines, IA.



Red Crossbill, Thorpe Park, Winnebago Co., 26 Feb 2005. Photograph by Reid Allen, Des Moines, IA.



Eurasian Tree Sparrow, a small group lingered this winter at Hawkeye Wildlife Area, Johnson Co., 23 January 2005. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.

Iowa Christmas Bird Count, 2004–2005

Chris Caster

The 2004–2005 Iowa Christmas Bird Count (CBC) included 47 locations, which is a record high (Table 1). There were no new counts, but returning counts included Van Buren County, Taylor County, Siam-Hopkins, De Soto NWR, and Omaha. Two counts held last year, but not this year, were Carroll and Union County. The Neal Smith NWR count, although conducted, was not included, because it was held after the 5 Jan CBC period end-date as set by the National Audubon Society.

Weather was typical. Most count days were windy. December had been cold enough to render lakes mostly frozen. Moving water was partly open most places, but only the Mississippi River counts consistently reported water to be mostly open. Early December counts fared better with highs above freezing. A strong cold front that arrived on 18 Dec produced temperatures in the single digits on the 19th. Temperatures remained below freezing until the 30th and 31st when they soared to nearly sixty degrees. Temperatures dropped again to single digits for the January counts. Snow cover was nearly absent for the entire count period. Three counts reported one inch of snow cover. Only the Sac County count on 2 Jan (8.5 inches) reported more.

The total species count this season was 142, a record high and only the third time that this total has reached the 140-plateau. The total number of birds counted was 478,627. This is slightly above the 10-year average of 457,490, yet lower than five of the last six counts. Keokuk (87) had the highest overall species total for the 5th straight year. Burlington (75), Muscatine (74), Green Island (73), and Clinton (73) were also high among the Mississippi River counts. Sioux City (67) led the Missouri River counts. Spirit Lake (61) had the high count in the Northern Third, followed by Decorah (51), while Saylorville (67) and Des Moines (64) had the high counts for the Middle Third. Rathbun (68) took honors in the Southern Third. The average count this year had 13 people and 5.4 field parties and found 53 species.

REGULAR SPECIES

The year produced no obvious themes. There were about as many unusually high counts as unusually low ones and this cut across all species groups. Gull and raptor counts were generally up, but most other groups were below average. All species are recorded in Table 2. Species found on three or fewer counts are shown in Table 3. You may notice that the species order may differ from other lists you may have. This is to conform to the American Ornithologists' Union checklist. The addition of Cackling Goose to the species list should be the only change from last year. These birds present an identification challenge as most count participants have only recently begun to look for them among the larger Canada Geese subspecies. Many counts were likely conservative in their identifications to the point of omitting this species entirely.

Waterfowl numbers were mixed and often strongly influenced by a large concentration at a single count site. Greater White-fronted Geese (12) are hard to find most years and this total bests seven of the last 10. Snow Geese (4,690) numbers were relatively low and most were found in the western half of the state. The Ross's Goose (4) total was near average. Cackling Geese (1,251) were reported from 21 of the 46 counts, with a high of

410 birds on the Jamaica count. Canada Geese (103,573) continue to be found in numbers nearly double their 10-year average. Only three counts did not report this species. Four Mute Swans were found, although origin is certainly a question with these birds. The prevailing wisdom is that urban birds are more likely to be escapees while the birds found nearer the Mississippi River are wild. Either way they are an invasive species with ecological consequences whose expansion should be monitored. Hats off to the Iowa DNR Wildlife Diversity Program — Trumpeter Swans (48) were reported in record numbers this year equally from around the state. Eleven birds on the Dubuque count was the high. All the Tundra Swans (857) were found on the Clinton count in near record numbers.

Due to the lack of open water, even Mallards (33,629) had the third lowest total in 10 years. All puddle ducks were found in numbers well below their 10-year averages. The largest Mallard counts were from Sioux City (3,764), Rathbun (3,642), and West Mercer County (3,041). Wood Ducks (19) were high on the Princeton count with seven. Gadwall (132) had a high on the Muscatine count with 25. American Black Ducks (76) were high on the Clinton count with 16. Northern Shoveler (158) was nearly exclusive to the Clinton count where they had 150 birds. Northern Pintail (16) and Green-winged Teal (37) were also difficult to find. Four pintail on the Shenandoah count was high. The Clinton count had 11 Green-winged Teal and the Omaha count, 10.

Diving ducks were not numerous either. Most species totals were about half of their 10-year averages. Only Greater Scaup (43) proved to be more numerous than usual and twenty of those were found on the Keokuk count. Canvasbacks (5,207) were the most numerous of the diving ducks. Nearly all were found on the Clinton (3,000) and Keokuk (2,170) counts. Redhead (35) was most numerous on the Spirit Lake count with 11. Ring-necked Ducks (184) were most numerous at Keokuk with 147 birds. Clinton had the high count for Lesser Scaup with 501 and Common Goldeneye with 900. Three sea duck species were found this year. The Keokuk count produced one Surf Scoter and two Black Scoters. A count week Black Scoter was also at Spirit Lake. Two Long-tailed Ducks were found on the Clinton count and one was found on the Saylorville count. Bufflehead (63) had a high on the Burlington count with 36. Common Mergansers (4,971) were well below their 10-year average of 9,970. Most were divided among the Mississippi River counts, but 1,100 at Red Rock and 1,000 at Saylorville were the highs. Hooded Mergansers (61) and Red-breasted Mergansers (11) were also scarce. Ruddy Duck (217) was around, but still well below its 10-year average. The high was at Keokuk with 165 birds.

Gallinaceous birds were down this year. Gray Partridge (5), all on the Dubuque count, were a challenge to find without snow cover. Despite the fact that three of the last four Iowa CBCs have produced five or fewer birds statewide, the 10-year average is still 57 birds. As recently as 2000–2001, the total count had reached 178 birds with eight different counts reporting more than 10 birds. Is this species suddenly disappearing or has it simply been overlooked? The Ring-necked Pheasant (550) count was about one-third of the 10-year average. Ruffed Grouse were found at Yellow River Forest (2) and Decorah (1). Wild Turkey (2,312) reached a record high this year with three of the top five counts coming from the Missouri River. The De Soto NWR count was the high with 444 birds. Northern Bobwhite (52) had a poor showing. Except for the 2001–2002 count of 12 birds, this was the lowest count in 10 years and well below the 10-year average of 136 birds. The high count was at Rathbun with 18 birds.

Pied-billed Grebes (7) were hard to find with four of those birds at Burlington. American White Pelicans (42) were found well above the 10-year average of 14, with 30 birds at Muscatine. Double-crested Cormorant (58) numbers were above the average of 36 due to counts of 17 at both Princeton and Rathbun. Great Blue Herons (158) were above average for the fourth straight year. Mississippi River counts (141) provided most of the birds, with the high count coming from Burlington (40).

Bald Eagles (2,854) were found in near record numbers — only last year's count of 3,172 has been higher. For the third year in a row, Northern Harriers (62) fell below their 10-year average of 89. Accipiters were all found in very average numbers. Sharp-shinned (59) and Cooper's (52) Hawks were widely distributed, although eight Cooper's Hawks on the Cedar Rapids count was notable. Northern Goshawks were reported from Westfield (2) and Cherokee (1). Red-shouldered Hawks (5) were reported from three counts with three birds on the Cedar Falls-Waterloo count. Red-tailed Hawks (1,527) were common as usual, but slightly below the average of 1,618. Rough-legged Hawks (76) were reported at a 10-year low. Conversely, Golden Eagles (8) produced a record high with three birds at Yellow River Forest. American Kestrels (562) fell below their 10-year average of 616. Merlins (11) were also reported at a record high. Two were at Des Moines, but nine others were single birds from Missouri River or Middle Third counts. Only the Spirit Lake and Jamaica counts reported the prairie subspecies.

American Coots (491) were found primarily on the Keokuk count with 377 birds. Killdeer (46) were slightly below the average of 52, while Wilson's Snipe (28) were at a 7-

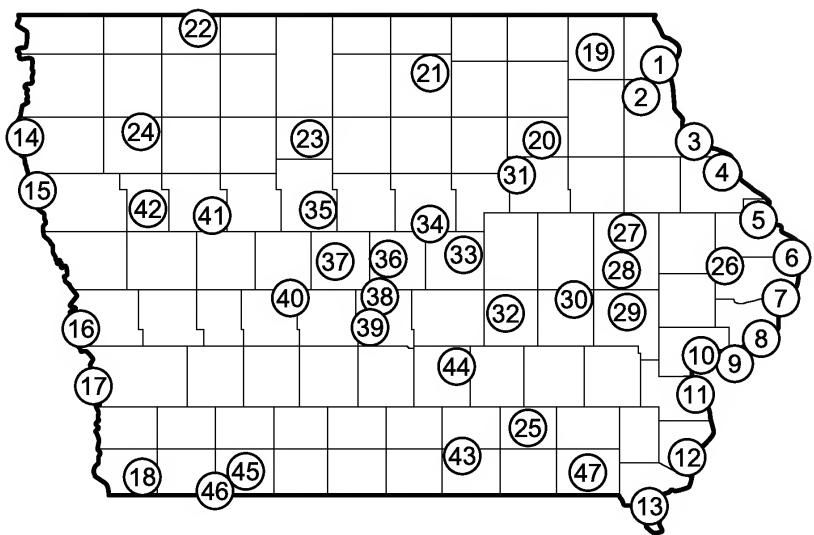


Figure 1. Locations of Iowa Christmas Bird Counts, 2000–2005.

year low. Gull numbers were quite good this year. Ring-billed Gulls (52,015) produced a record high more-than-double the 10-year average on the strength of 30,000 at Red Rock and 9,000 at Saylorville. The Herring Gull (3,764) count was the highest in nine years with 1,500 at Red Rock and 1,000 at Saylorville. Thayer's Gulls (14) were found in record numbers with 10 at Des Moines and two at Keokuk. This bird presents an identification challenge and even this year it was probably under-reported. Glaucous Gulls (5) had their highest total in nine years, each bird from a different count.

Rock Pigeons (12,062) posted their highest count since 1988–1989. Eurasian Collared-Doves (72) posted their third consecutive record high with Shenandoah (26) and Cherokee (24) leading the way. These numbers will likely continue to climb. It was an average year for Mourning Doves (3,214) after two years over the 5,000-plateau. Eastern Screech-Owls (83) were found below their average of 99. Their numbers have not fluctuated much, but this was the lowest total in six years. The Great Horned Owl (133) total was the lowest in over 20 years, although it was still found on 76% of the counts. Long-eared Owls (44) were found somewhat above their average of 35; ten birds on the Green Island (17) count were high. Short-eared Owls (6) continued to be hard to find. Three birds on the Dubuque count were high. An additional count-week bird was reported from De Soto NWR. Northern Saw-whet Owls (6) were also in short supply with Amana reporting two. Belted Kingfisher (131) numbers were above the 10-year average of 119. Twelve at Des Moines was the high.

Woodpeckers produced mixed returns. Red-headed Woodpeckers (125) had their lowest count in five years. Red-bellied (1,676), Downy (2,393), Hairy (602), and Pileated (58) Woodpeckers and Northern Flickers (615) were found in about average numbers. A "Red-shafted" Northern Flicker was reported from De Soto NWR. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (27) nearly reached last year's record high of 30 birds.

It was an average year for Northern Shrikes (25). Northern Shrikes were reported in all parts of the state and as far south as Siam-Hopkins. Single Loggerhead Shrikes were reported from Rathbun, Red Rock, and Siam-Hopkins. Blue Jay (2,829) numbers were well below the average of 4,111. American Crows (73,862) rebounded from last year's low of 50,858. The 10-year average is 70,685. Horned Lark (2,140) numbers were well below the 10-year average of 3,281. A lack of snow on nearly all counts hampered locating this species. It is not surprising that the only count with significant snow cover, Sac County, found 972 of those birds. Black-capped Chickadees (5,687) had their worst count in 19 years. This comes on the heels of back-to-back 7,000+ counts two and three years ago. Tufted Titmouse (586) numbers were also at a 19-year low. Red-breasted Nuthatches (260) posted good numbers, but below the 300-plateau normally seen during an invasion year. The White-breasted Nuthatch (2,624) total was somewhat above the average of 2,427 for the third year in a row. Brown Creeper (185) numbers were well below their average of 295. These birds were widely distributed except for the Southern Third where only a single bird was found at Red Rock. Carolina Wrens (76) were found well above their average of 57. Winter Wren (37) numbers were quite high, second only to the record count of 49 two years ago. Golden-crowned Kinglets (117) rebounded to average numbers from last year's abysmal total of 25.

It was a very good count season for the thrush family. Eastern Bluebird (497) numbers were even higher than last year and approaching the record high of 560 set three years ago. The birds were widespread with Green Island (74), Rathbun (68), and Omaha (64) leading the way. Hermit Thrushes (10) were found in numbers slightly above aver-

age. American Robins (4,730) were found in well above average numbers on the strength of 3,847 birds on the De Soto NWR count alone. Evidently the De Soto Refuge often contains huge numbers of robins. Over 5,000 have been seen some mornings by staff (Bob Barry, pers. comm.).

Northern Mockingbirds (6) were at an all-time high with Princeton reporting two. A single Gray Catbird was found on the Siam-Hopkins count. Single Brown Thrashers were reported from Andalusia and Keokuk. European Starling (64,849) numbers hit an all-time high this year. Cedar Waxwings (2,109) fell below their 10-year average after last years high of 5,543. And following last year's record of 68 birds, only a single Yellow-rumped Warbler was reported on the Andalusia count

Sparrows were consistently found in numbers below their 10-year averages. Only two Eastern Towhees were reported, both on Mississippi River counts. American Tree Sparrow (10,145) numbers were below average. Field Sparrows (15) were found primarily on the Shenandoah count where they had 14. A single bird was also found on the Ida County count. Fox Sparrows (10) were at about half their average with Keokuk reporting five. Song Sparrows (431) and Swamp Sparrows (95) were both found well below their respective averages of 787 and 145. The White-throated Sparrow (268) count was about average if you factor out the large counts from the last two years. Harris's Sparrows (48) were extremely scarce and barely surpassed last year's record low. Over half of these were found on the southerly Missouri River counts. The average for the species is 212. White-crowned Sparrows (49) were also hard to find and below the average of 73. Dark-eyed Juncos (16,961) were found in numbers slightly below average. With the lack of snow on many counts, Lapland Longspurs (106) and Snow Buntings (117) were difficult to locate and both had their third lowest total of the last ten years. The Northern Cardinal (5,766) count was only slightly below average.

Icterid numbers were also near average or lower. Red-winged Blackbird (3,670) numbers were below their average of 4,878; however, 2,000 on the Amana count was notable. A large flock had been seen in the Iowa River bottom for a couple of weeks. It is conjecture, but a large portion of disturbed bottom land at Amana had been taken over by Reid's canary grass and the blackbirds may find it good habitat (Lanny Haldy, pers. comm.). Meadowlarks (171) were nearly half their average. A flock of 40 Western Meadowlarks at Saylorville was identified by calls. Rusty Blackbirds (223) were reported at twice their average of 104. Brewer's Blackbirds (5) were found on three counts with the high being three birds at Sioux City. Common Grackles (131) were also scarce, nearing last year's 15-year low of 81. Brown-headed Cowbirds (685) were also found well below the average of 1,023. The high was 385 birds at Davenport.

It was mixed year for finches. Purple Finches (380) were below their average of 526. House Finches (3,072) posted the second best totals in ten years. Common Redpolls (13) were nearly absent. Ten of those birds were at Yellow River Forest. Pine Siskin (573) numbers were well above average and widespread except for the Southern Third, where only 12 birds were found on the Van Buren County count. American Goldfinches (4,632) numbers were slightly below average.

House Sparrows (24,235) were slightly below average. Eurasian Tree Sparrows (689) continued to do well with an impressive 326 at Muscatine. Princeton (4) and Iowa City (2) currently mark the limit of their expansion.

NOTABLE MISSES

Several species that are found with some regularity on Iowa CBCs were missed this year. The most notable was likely Spotted Towhee (9 of last 10 years). Others include White-winged Scoter (7 of last 10 years), Horned Grebe (5 of last 10 years), Bonaparte's Gull (5 of last 10 years), Varied Thrush (4 of last 10 years), Common Yellowthroat (4 of last 10 years), Vesper Sparrow (4 of last 10 years), and Red Crossbill (5 of last 10 years).

UNCOMMON SPECIES

The list of species reported on three or fewer counts was extensive and a number of those were discussed with the regular species accounts.

The first ever Fish Crow on an Iowa CBC was documented on the Muscatine count and will undoubtedly go to the Illinois Records Committee for approval. The bird has a very distinctive call, heard by persons familiar with the species. This bird has been previously found in the spring at Port Louisa NWR about 15 miles south of Muscatine on the Iowa side of the river (Kelly McKay, pers. comm.). A Great Egret found on the Saylorville count was also a first for the Iowa CBC and very possibly a first Iowa winter record (Bob Cecil and Aaron Brees, pers. comm.).

A single Common Loon was at Rathbun. This bird has been found statewide in five of the last 10 years. A Black-crowned Night-Heron was found on the Cedar Rapids count. This species has been regular along the open water adjacent the Quaker Oats Plant and this was the third time it had been reported on the Cedar Rapids count since 1999. Peregrine Falcons were reported on the Davenport and Saylorville counts. Prairie Falcons were found at Westfield and Des Moines and another count-week bird was at Spirit Lake. Sandhill Cranes were reported for only the second time since 1998–1999. Five were at Green Island and two were at Princeton.

Several uncommon gulls were found this season. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were found at Saylorville and Keokuk. This species was widespread in Iowa this winter, yet probably under-reported given the lack of familiarity most birders have with juveniles. Documentation of an Iceland Gull on the Muscatine count appeared solid, but will likely be sent to the Illinois Record Committee for approval. An adult Black-legged Kittiwake on the Keokuk count was certainly notable.

The only Snowy Owl was found at Iowa City. Two Black-billed Magpies at Westfield document their continued presence at that location. Magpies have now been found in three of the last five years at Westfield. A single Marsh Wren was at Keokuk and a single Ruby-crowned Kinglet was at Eldora-Union. Three Townsend's Solitaires also made an appearance at Westfield and a fourth was at the De Soto NWR. This is the highest total for this species on the CBCs and consistent with their widespread occurrence in the state this winter. A Varied Thrush was a count-week bird in Iowa City. An American Pipit was documented on the Cedar Rapids count and is the third ever CBC record for the species, all in the last four years.

Uncommon winter sparrows found this year included a Field Sparrow at Shenandoah and Ida County, a Savannah Sparrow at Saylorville, and single Lincoln's Sparrows at Clinton and Keokuk. A flock of 40 Great-tailed Grackles were on the Sioux City count. Three White-winged Crossbills on the Cherokee count were the only crossbills this year.

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Table 1. Site data for 2004–2005 Christmas Bird Counts

Location	Date	Total Species	Total Birds	Obs	Field		Miles		Owling		Feeder		Temp		Snow Depth	Wind
					Pts	Hr	Car	Ft	Hr	Mi	Pt	Hr	L	H		
MISSISSIPPI RIVER																
1. Yellow River Forest	29-Dec	54	3347	5	4	29	331	9	3	25	0	0	23	29	0	SW 3-5
2. Northwest Clayton County	23-Dec	27	1351	3	1	11	54	3	0	0	0	0	-6	9	1	NW 5-15
3. Southeast Clayton County	1-Jan	27	686	2	2	13	59	3	0	0	1	2	19	28	0	NE 0-15
4. Dubuque	2-Jan	63	5711	27	8	39	184	32	1	1	2	2	32	34	0	NW 5-10
5. Green Island	15-Dec	73	6912	12	6	53	342	8	2	45	0	0	11	29	0	SW 0-15
6. Clinton	16-Dec	73	12701	9	4	37	328	4	5	61	0	0	22	36	0	W 15-30
7. Princeton	17-Dec	65	4238	6	4	31	263	4	3	30	0	0	22	39	0	SW 0-10
8. Davenport	19-Dec	70	16150	17	7	62	503	12	7	70	6	11	8	16	0	NW 10-20
9. Andalusia	3-Jan	65	4864	5	4	30	249	12	3	36	0	0	32	35	0	SE 5-10
10. Muscatine	2-Jan	74	11014	11	4	39	287	15	5	72	7	7	38	44	0	NW 5-15
11. West Mercer County	21-Dec	63	7870	7	4	34	270	8	6	67	0	0	17	24	0	W 20-30
12. Burlington	18-Dec	75	8306	12	4	48	251	39	2	12	2	14	31	38	0	N 6-30
13. Keokuk	20-Dec	87	31942	7	5	45	279	15	0	0	0	0	18	31	0	E 10-20
MISSOURI RIVER																
14. Westfield	2-Jan	49	6939	24	7	102	290	18	2	3	3	12	10	24	0	N 0-13
15. Sioux City	18-Dec	67	18076	21	8	47	360	26	1	1	3	12	25	43	0	N 0-29
16. De Soto NWR	19-Dec	55	18461	23	11	56	468	20	3	26	2	2	-1	16	0	NNW 3-6
17. Omaha	18-Dec	62	17661	9	9	56	359	26	2	12	3	7	34	47	0	NW 5-15
18. Shenandoah	27-Dec	62	8504	20	8	63	479	27	2	6	14	60	23	48	0	S 8-21
NORTHERN THIRD																
19. Decorah	27-Dec	51	5500	12	5	32	301	15	1	5	3	4	15	25	1	SW 3-10
20. Bremer County	18-Dec	40	3052	10	4	29	397	7	0	0	0	0	24	38	0	25-40
21. Mason City	18-Dec	50	14334	12	6	50	254	17	2	15	11	16	18	32	0	NNW 15-30
22. Spirit Lake	18-Dec	61	13546	8	2	17	269	1	0	0	32	160	18	30	0	NW 20-35
23. Humboldt County	26-Dec	16	550	3	1	6	93	0	0	0	0	0	NA ^a	NA	NA	NA
24. Cherokee	19-Dec	35	1685	7	4	24	353	6	3	21	2	4	-6	12	0	SSE 10-20

Table 1. Site data for 2004–2005 Christmas Bird Counts

Location	Date	Total Species	Total Birds	Obs	Field Pts	Hr	Miles Car	Ft	Owling Hr	Mi	Feeder Pt	Hr	Temp L	H	Snow Depth	Wind
MIDDLE THIRD																
25. Wapello County	31-Dec	50	7314	9	3	45	78	20	1	2	0	0	32	53	0	SE 10-15
26. Lost Nation	20-Dec	57	4222	14	5	37	345	6	2	22	1	2	15	20	0	SE 15-20
27. North Linn	29-Dec	40	5155	10	6	35	390	4	3	20	1	2	16	25	0	NW 0-10
28. Cedar Rapids	18-Dec	62	21808	20	9	57	462	12	5	26	1	2	16	22	0	NW 5-20
29. Iowa City	19-Dec	59	7838	33	10	62	492	22	4	61	16	50	3	15	0	N 0-15
30. Amana	2-Jan	43	2855	9	2	14	20	8	2	6	0	0	30	32	0	NW 5-15
31. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	19-Dec	48	24997	10	6	37	458	13	0	2	11	11	-3	11	0	15-30
32. Grinnell	18-Dec	25	1457	11	3	48	80	30	2	4	1	20	25	38	0	NW 10-25
33. Marshalltown	15-Dec	30	4877	13	4	23	275	0	0	0	5	18	19	41	0	SW 12-20
34. Eldora-Union	15-Dec	34	1204	4	2	16	144	5	1	10	1	8	20	42	0	SW 25-30
35. Southeast Webster	26-Dec	34	948	8	2	36	86	2	1	10	0	0	20	26	1	NW 10-15
36. Ames	18-Dec	56	29052	41	21	91	498	62	1	23	5	15	30	40	0	N 18-41
37. Boone County	2-Jan	58	6706	33	15	85	452	37	3	30	9	31	21	26	0	NW 5-12
38. Saylorville Reservoir	19-Dec	67	20963	25	10	77	622	26	4	46	0	0	1	15	0	N 0-15
39. Des Moines ^b	2-Jan	64	33124	16	8	55	272	14	4	11	4	10	25	36	0	N 5-10
40. Jamaica	14-Dec	51	13588	6	4	30	292	10	1	20	0	0	7	33	0	W 5-12
41. Sac County	2-Jan	31	3169	12	5	15	236	2	0	0	5	5	5	20	9	NW 5-10
42. Ida County	2-Jan	37	2734	4	2	33	97	8	1	3	6	11	10	24	0	WNW 5-10
SOUTHERN THIRD																
43. Rathbun Reservoir	18-Dec	68	17259	26	8	50	587	7	5	62	9	12	27	36	0	SSW 0-10
44. Red Rock Reservoir	18-Dec	59	37931	6	4	30	340	8	0	0	0	0	26	35	0	S 5-20
45. Taylor County	30-Dec	34	2814	4	2	13	145	7	0	0	2	9	48	61	0	S 25-32
46. Siam-Hopkins	18-Dec	37	750	2	1	14	92	7	0	0	1	4	29	43	0	NNW 0-15
47. Van Buren County	27-Dec	35	3040	6	1	8	79	2	0	0	0	0	14	42	0	S 5-15

^a NA = not available.

^b In addition to the above data, the Des Moines count also canoed 8 miles over 4 hours.

Table 2a. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2004–2005

Location	Gr W-f Go	Sn Go	Cack Go	Ca Go	Mu Sw	Tr Sw	Wo Du	Ga	Am Wi	Am Bl Du	Ma
MISSISSIPPI RIVER											
1. Yellow River Forest				12				7		10	278
2. Northwest Clayton County											
3. Southeast Clayton County											
4. Dubuque				745		11		6			395
5. Green Island			1	1550		1	1	2		1	280
6. Clinton				706						16	472
7. Princeton				267		5	7	6	5	4	81
8. Davenport				2177			2	4		5	1278
9. Andalusia			1	452			2	2			132
10. Muscatine			5	516			1	25	1		197
11. West Mercer County				1250			2	4		10	3041
12. Burlington			2	2112			2	3			306
13. Keokuk	1		47	1321	1		1	6		2	313
Subtotal	1	0	56	11108	1	17	18	65	6	48	6773
MISSOURI RIVER											
14. Westfield			2	2500					1		750
15. Sioux City	4	57	66	3611		1		16	12		3764
16. De Soto NWR		365		2079		6					2504
17. Omaha		2600	5	3487		1		1		1	186
18. Shenandoah		542		177				1	7		2307
Subtotal	4	3564	73	11854	0	8	0	18	20	1	9511
NORTHERN THIRD											
19. Decorah			2	694						2	138
20. Bremer County			5	463							47
21. Mason City		3	9	6241		8					825
22. Spirit Lake		1	282	8665	1	1	1	10			706
23. Humboldt County				230							14
24. Cherokee											
Subtotal	0	4	298	16293	1	9	1	10	0	2	1730
MIDDLE THIRD											
25. Wapello County			5	3000						5	392
26. Lost Nation	1			501		5					1
27. North Linn				709							75
28. Cedar Rapids	3	62	100	6954	1					4	1624
29. Iowa City		300		895				1			870
30. Amana				80		5					2
31. Cedar Falls-Waterloo			2	7486						4	1835
32. Grinnell				1005							130
33. Marshalltown		1		3431							48
34. Eldora-Union				600							11
35. Southeast Webster				55							104
36. Ames			9	1904							90
37. Boone County				32							1
38. Saylorville Reservoir				569						2	979
39. Des Moines		1	10	13360	1	2		8	3	2	2574
40. Jamaica	3	5	410	10120				17			1750
41. Sac County				93							50
42. Ida County		1		782		1					69
Subtotal	7	370	536	51576	2	13	0	26	3	17	10605
SOUTHERN THIRD											
43. Rathbun Reservoir		1	137	7794				13		3	3642
44. Red Rock Reservoir			1	1545						5	1200
45. Taylor County		751		1054		1					1
46. Siam-Hopkins				76							
47. Van Buren County			150	2273							167
Subtotal	0	752	288	12742	0	1	0	13	0	8	5010
TOTAL	12	4690	1251	103573	4	48	19	132	29	76	33629

Table 2b. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2004–2005

Location	No Sh	No Pi	Gr Wi Te	Ca	Re	Ri Ne Du	Gr Sc	Le Sc	Bu	Co Go	Ho Me
MISSISSIPPI RIVER											
1. Yellow River Forest				1						12	
2. Northwest Clayton County											
3. Southeast Clayton County											
4. Dubuque	4							3	1		
5. Green Island				3		3		48	3	19	
6. Clinton	150	1	11	3000				501	2	900	1
7. Princeton		3						4	8	49	
8. Davenport			3	4	4	1		30		58	4
9. Andalusia						3		1	1	7	
10. Muscatine				16	1	2		69		94	2
11. West Mercer County		1						2			
12. Burlington						3		104	36	1	
13. Keokuk				2170	5	147	20	135	6	35	1
Subtotal	154	5	14	5194	10	159	20	897	57	1175	8
MISSOURI RIVER											
14. Westfield			1		1					2	
15. Sioux City	1	3	3	2	6	1		3	2	36	
16. De Soto NWR										68	
17. Omaha			10							244	
18. Shenandoah		4	1					1		1	
Subtotal	1	7	15	2	7	1	0	4	2	351	0
NORTHERN THIRD											
19. Decorah											
20. Bremer County											
21. Mason City						3	5				
22. Spirit Lake			1	4	11	15	12	25	1	208	1
23. Humboldt County											
24. Cherokee											
Subtotal	0	0	1	4	11	18	17	25	1	208	1
MIDDLE THIRD											
25. Wapello County	2			1	5	3	6	3			
26. Lost Nation											
27. North Linn											
28. Cedar Rapids										44	18
29. Iowa City									1		
30. Amana											
31. Cedar Falls-Waterloo		1									2
32. Grinnell											
33. Marshalltown								2			
34. Eldora-Union											
35. Southeast Webster		1									
36. Ames					1			1			
37. Boone County											
38. Saylorville Reservoir				3						77	1
39. Des Moines				3	1			4		282	1
40. Jamaica	1	1						9		2	
41. Sac County											
42. Ida County			1								
Subtotal	3	3	1	7	7	3	6	19	1	405	22
SOUTHERN THIRD											
43. Rathbun Reservoir		1	6			3		4	1	32	30
44. Red Rock Reservoir								3	1	675	
45. Taylor County											
46. Siam-Hopkins											
47. Van Buren County											
Subtotal	0	1	6	0	0	3	0	7	2	707	30
TOTAL	158	16	37	5207	35	184	43	952	63	2846	61

Co Me	R-b Me	Ru Du	Ri Ne Ph	Wi Tu	No Bo	Pi Bi Gr	Am Wh Pe	Do Cr Co	Gr Bl He	Ba Ea	No Ha	Sh Sh Ha	Co Ha	Re Ta Ha
25			13 1	122 87					1	28 34 16	3 1		1	33 13 2
223 15 627	3	28	2 6 4	94 75 1 59	8		2		3 12 31	105 210 146	1 1 1	2	2	32 53 38 24
366 305 468 151 2 250		1 2 10 165		66 13 33 10 42	5 2 8 6			11 7	4 3 11 10 40 22	197 34 128 150 218 238			1 1 1 2 2 2	55 16 42 26 37 21
2432	7	206	42	602	34	5	37	36	141	1566	11	11	13	392
6 2 46	1	1	64 68 25	174 269 444 105 18			3			12 9 80 44 19	3 1 4 5 1	1 4 2 5 4	2 1 1 1 1	29 34 62 71 64
54	1	1	170	1010	0	1	3	0	4	164	9	16	4	260
			31 5 2	56 8 41 32						33 25 15 5 1 19	2 1 2	2 1 1	1 2 1	52 15 12 7 18
53	1	4	12 5 11	138		0	0	0	0	98	3	5	6	104
5			18 12 18	16 71 30			1			62 49 56 55		1	1	14 23 43 59
38	2	1	8 1 11 11 9	25 9 78					1 4	233 17 23 45 16 2		4 2	1	64 12 45 4 10 8
1000 93 2		5	50 15 10 68 14	108 47 28 9 7				1 1 1		5 47 24 89 2 8	1 3	4 3 4 2 1	5 2 5 2	80 65 60 67 17 6 9
1141	2	6	255	433	0	1	2	5	10	733	2	24	27	621
189 1100			2 1	70 1 10	18			17	3	90 140 2 2 59	23 3 6 2 3	1 1 1	1	75 28 22 16 9
2			14	27 21										
1291	0	0	17	129	18	0	0	17	3	293	37	3	2	150
4971	11	217	550	2312	52	7	42	58	158	2854	62	59	52	1527

Table 2c. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2004–2005

Location	Ro Le Ha	Go Ea	Am Ke	Me	Am Co	Ki	Wi Sn	Ri Bi Gu	He Gu	Th Gu	Gl Gu
MISSISSIPPI RIVER											
1. Yellow River Forest	8	3	10		1						
2. Northwest Clayton County						2					
3. Southeast Clayton County	1		5								
4. Dubuque	2		11					63	5		
5. Green Island	3	1	19			2		235	12		
6. Clinton	4		22		13	9		457	21		
7. Princeton	1		14					132	16		
8. Davenport			26		1			1297	145	1	1
9. Andalusia	1		6			1		83	126		
10. Muscatine	3		38			1		1110	440		
11. West Mercer County			10				4	291	15		1
12. Burlington	8		20			1		2020	5		
13. Keokuk	1		10		377	20	13	3922	166	2	1
Subtotal	32	4	191	0	392	36	19	9610	951	3	3
MISSOURI RIVER											
14. Westfield	8		10								
15. Sioux City	8		8	1	13			2			
16. De Soto NWR	2	1	13	1							
17. Omaha	1		7	1				5			
18. Shenandoah	2		31	1					1		
Subtotal	21	1	69	4	13	0	0	7	1	0	0
NORTHERN THIRD											
19. Decorah	6	1	6			2	5				
20. Bremer County	1		12								
21. Mason City	1	1	1		5			14			
22. Spirit Lake				1	77			64	25		
23. Humboldt County											
24. Cherokee	3		3								
Subtotal	11	2	22	1	82	2	5	78	25	0	0
MIDDLE THIRD											
25. Wapello County			2	1	1	1		1450	160		
26. Lost Nation	2		16				1				
27. North Linn			18								
28. Cedar Rapids	1		27		2	3		930	13		
29. Iowa City			13					255	2		
30. Amana			7					1			
31. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	2	1	10								
32. Grinnell			2								
33. Marshalltown			13								
34. Eldora-Union			6								
35. Southeast Webster	2		2		1						
36. Ames			14	1							
37. Boone County		1	15	1							
38. Saylorville Reservoir			13				1	9000	1000		
39. Des Moines	1		19	2		1		72	102	10	1
40. Jamaica			7	1			2		1		
41. Sac County			8								
42. Ida County	1		9								
Subtotal	9	1	201	6	4	5	4	11708	1278	10	1
SOUTHERN THIRD											
43. Rathbun Reservoir			53					607	9		
44. Red Rock Reservoir			7			1		30000	1500	1	1
45. Taylor County	2		10								
46. Siam-Hopkins	1		5								
47. Van Buren County			4			2		5			
Subtotal	3	0	79	0	0	3	0	30612	1509	1	1
TOTAL	76	8	562	11	491	46	28	52015	3764	14	5

Ro Pi	Eu Co Do	Mo Do	Ea Sc Ow	Gr Ho Ow	Ba Ow	Lo Ea Ow	Sh Ea Ow	No S-w Ow	Be Ki	Re He Wo	Re Be Wo	Ye Be Sa	Do Wo	Ha Wo
144		23	5	4	3				5		29		33	14
31		1							1		5		17	2
46		3							1		2		5	2
282		97		3	2		3		3		31	1	54	14
133		90	5	8	3	10			7	4	64		50	23
374		113	4	2	3	1			6	1	47	6	40	13
55		137	4	8	2				3	9	33	2	53	11
1164		505	3	6	4				3	2	95	3	138	28
190		39	1	6	3					2	28		28	7
116		372	4	6	10				4	13	53		58	22
79		125	5	4	10				3	2	42		47	22
191		157	1	1	3			1	5	18	39	1	50	6
646		133			2				5	4	27	2	54	5
3451	0	1795	32	48	45	11	3	1	46	55	495	15	627	169
171		17		6	3	14	1				27		52	11
801			1	2	3				1		39		65	12
288		1	8	6	6				2		88	1	112	14
381		17	1		2				6	28	98	1	81	12
215	26	26	2	8	10	8			1		50		58	9
1856	26	61	12	22	24	22	1	0	10	28	302	2	368	58
210		70	3	1	1				10		24		43	7
62		3		1	2				1	4	16		22	5
696		3		6	3	2		1	1		12		48	20
104	6	2		3							21		85	29
3		5											3	
214	24	1	2	4	2						16		16	10
1289	30	84	5	15	8	2	0	1	12	4	89	0	217	71
821		12	2	1					2		6	1	7	2
95		14	3	5	3		1		1	23	41	1	45	12
146		147	1	1	3				1	1	32		48	13
948		241	4	7	6				8		53	1	76	19
203		60		3	1				3	4	99	1	132	33
24		7	1	2	1			2	8		15		27	4
913		7	1	2	6			1	3	1	20		57	15
21		11			1					1	8		9	1
351		2							1		11		32	8
22		1		3				1	2		8		15	5
110		35	1		1						12		18	2
288		227	1	5	7	2			9		81	2	158	37
189	8	19	5	1	5				4	1	101		156	65
363		15	5	6	9				4	1	121	2	164	25
494		251		2	4				12		62		76	14
52		38	2	1	1				2		19		23	12
186		8									11		25	14
59	4		1	2		2					9		19	3
5285	12	1095	27	41	48	4	1	4	60	32	709	8	1087	284
54		63	7	6	5	4			3	4	45		58	12
2	4	46		1	2	1					18	2	21	2
78											5		7	1
28		1			4					1	9		5	3
19		69					1			1	4		3	2
181	4	179	7	7	11	5	1	0	3	6	81	2	94	20
12062	72	3214	83	133	136	44	6	6	131	125	1676	27	2393	602

Table 2d. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2004–2005

Location	No Fl	Pi Wo	No Sh	sh sp	Bl Ja	Am Cr	Ho La	Bl Ca Ch	Tu Ti	Re Br Nu	Wh Br Nu
MISSISSIPPI RIVER											
1. Yellow River Forest	4	7	2		80	359	15	115	17	5	49
2. Northwest Clayton County					18	123	47	29	6		9
3. Southeast Clayton County	5				25	25		24	6	3	16
4. Dubuque	6	3	5		76	236		198	21	1	61
5. Green Island	21	1	2		91	226	24	121	34	5	78
6. Clinton	11	2			71	202	25	209	39	2	100
7. Princeton	8				101	159	4	159	7	9	69
8. Davenport	12	4			213	560	12	364	39	5	159
9. Andalusia	8	2			21	69	1	81	5		21
10. Muscatine	10	5	1	1	158	100	6	254	34	2	106
11. West Mercer County	11	4			34	91	53	98	28	3	63
12. Burlington	10				77	225	5	61	13	2	48
13. Keokuk	17	7			55	16000	40	93	30		41
Subtotal	123	35	10	1	1020	18375	232	1806	279	37	820
MISSOURI RIVER											
14. Westfield	10		2		31	61	16	92		2	45
15. Sioux City	37				26	326		145		14	60
16. De Soto NWR	139		1		88	171	411	187	14		77
17. Omaha	59		1		46	181	6	275	52	6	125
18. Shenandoah	39		1	2	188	120	196	118	9	3	76
Subtotal	284	0	5	2	379	859	629	817	75	25	383
NORTHERN THIRD											
19. Decorah	1	6	1		94	445		141	13	14	54
20. Bremer County	3		1		34	200	2	41		3	7
21. Mason City	3	1			69	4409		112		9	43
22. Spirit Lake	2				37	75	3	176		12	83
23. Humboldt County					6	11	35	5			
24. Cherokee	4				47	219		40		6	33
Subtotal	13	7	2	0	287	5359	40	515	13	44	220
MIDDLE THIRD											
25. Wapello County	2				26	60		14	2		23
26. Lost Nation	15	3			116	177	101	114	8	22	49
27. North Linn	7	1	1		125	83	38	110	8	3	42
28. Cedar Rapids	3	3			45	5797		201	23	5	70
29. Iowa City	33				79	498	2	234	56	5	95
30. Amana	3	2			30	35	40	55	4	2	23
31. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	3	1	1		52	9887	4	130		7	49
32. Grinnell	1				3	63		5			7
33. Marshalltown					34	71		22	2	3	28
34. Eldora-Union		1			22	39		26	7	1	17
35. Southeast Webster					16	66	10	14			6
36. Ames	7		1		69	18500	52	444	2	39	182
37. Boone County	9	3	2	1	62	514	3	390	38	17	223
38. Saylorville Reservoir	28	2	2		126	748	2	354	16	11	121
39. Des Moines	17				33	12000		177	25	6	95
40. Jamaica	7				49	157		66	3	4	56
41. Sac County					21	22	972	19		1	15
42. Ida County	5				35	57		14		22	19
Subtotal	140	16	7	1	943	48774	1224	2389	194	148	1120
SOUTHERN THIRD											
43. Rathbun Reservoir	25				164	233	5	78	12	4	40
44. Red Rock Reservoir	20				18	82	4	49	6	2	12
45. Taylor County	3			1	7	80	2	11			14
46. Siam-Hopkins	6		1		3	35	4	17	2		10
47. Van Buren County	1			1	8	65		5	5		5
Subtotal	55	0	1	2	200	495	15	160	25	6	81
TOTAL	615	58	25	6	2829	73862	2140	5687	586	260	2624

Br Cr	Ca Wr	Wi Wr	Go Cr Ki	Ea Bl	He Th	Am Ro	No Mo	Eu St	Ce Wa	Am Tr Sp	Fo Sp	So Sp	Sw Sp	Wh Th Sp
		2				1		539 108 59	4	241 73 17		19		1
13	2		2	22		8		914	67	138		9	1	2
4	4	2	6	74	1	26	1	1191	62	154		19	2	7
4	9	1		31	1	19		1816	4	252		16	15	9
8	2	3	1	10		7	2	1324	9	324		15	14	4
16	8	2		12		12		2493	16	441	2	33	3	38
3			2	5	3	147	1	1450	162	217		12	1	13
7	7	1	2	18		27		2730	71	991		24	5	8
8	1	1	1	13		9		883	40	284	2	30	19	12
1	5	2		21		20		1115	37	77		2	5	15
6	11		12	17		12		3248	63	159	5	22	17	25
70	49	14	26	223	5	288	4	17870	535	3368	9	201	82	134
3				7				1496		324				
11		2	1	2		35		6759	60	383		2		
5			33	53	1	3847		4511	35	795		13		
11	5			64		172	1	7397	50	76		3		4
9		1	23			100		184	14	753		38	1	17
39	5	3	65	126	1	4154	1	20347	159	2331	0	56	1	21
3		2				24		1030	6	514		6		
1						1		805		92		1		
3	1					1		787	4	42				1
7			7			2		1247	134	69				
								135						
						2		88	166	116		1		
14	1	2	7	0	0	30	0	4092	310	833	0	8	0	1
				11				876	9	56		5		
12	2	1	1	2		28		895	40	219	1	5	2	8
1								907	75	313		14		
4	5		2	5		2		2367	6	193		12		7
2	3			13	1	11	1	506	221	253		3		25
1				4				150		22		5		
3		1						2091		202		3		
								6	12	2				
	1	1				1		311		29				
								155		16				
								180		44		3		
16	1	7				17		3861	19	131		8		9
7	1	2	2	2		5		1406	37	368		30	4	3
10		2	11		2	31		2146	31	619		33	4	31
4	8	1			1	112		1520	7	119		15	2	9
		1				3		1052	96	389		4		
								648	7	40				
						8		1063	21	62		1		
61	21	15	16	37	4	218	1	20140	581	3077	1	141	12	92
			1	68		4		1312	345	374		19		20
				17		17		697	104	58		4		
				24		13		187	71	17		2		
				2		6		174	4	87				
		3	2					30						
1	0	3	3	111	0	40	0	2400	524	536	0	25	0	20
185	76	37	117	497	10	4730	6	64849	2109	10145	10	431	95	268

Table 2e. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2004–2005

Location	Ha Sp	Wh Cr Sp	Da Ey Ju	La Lo	Sn Bu	No Ca	Re Wi Bl	me sp	Ru Bl	Co Gr	Br He Co
MISSISSIPPI RIVER											
1. Yellow River Forest			383			121	39				
2. Northwest Clayton County			183			20					
3. Southeast Clayton County			101			23					
4. Dubuque		8	330			155	31		15	3	
5. Green Island			637			158	526				5
6. Clinton			415			156	3				55
7. Princeton		1	376	3		144	32			2	
8. Davenport			1230			455	203		2	4	355
9. Andalusia			267			145	5			3	40
10. Muscatine			633	1		205	7			2	12
11. West Mercer County			245	4	1	80	78				
12. Burlington		7	274	12	12	135	20	4	4	7	
13. Keokuk	5	16	454			170	24	6		9	7
Subtotal	5	32	5528	20	13	1967	968	10	21	30	474
MISSOURI RIVER											
14. Westfield			235			38	9			5	
15. Sioux City	2		253			41	3				
16. De Soto NWR	6		798	3		173	125	16			
17. Omaha	11		437			173	3	20		1	8
18. Shenandoah	14	9	1048	26		258	127	3		2	30
Subtotal	33	9	2771	29	0	683	267	39	0	8	38
NORTHERN THIRD											
19. Decorah			497			171	1				
20. Bremer County			68		10	14					
21. Mason City			205			34				1	
22. Spirit Lake			136	34		22	13		4	25	
23. Humboldt County			13			9					
24. Cherokee			225			34					
Subtotal	0	0	1144	34	10	284	14	0	4	26	0
MIDDLE THIRD											
25. Wapello County			25			19	12			1	
26. Lost Nation			418		53	158	6		40	1	9
27. North Linn			450			199					
28. Cedar Rapids			283			200	12			2	100
29. Iowa City		2	710			364	250			2	
30. Amana			45			25	2000			2	10
31. Cedar Falls-Waterloo			270			97			10		
32. Grinnell			26			17					
33. Marshalltown			74			66				4	
34. Eldora-Union			51			21				9	
35. Southeast Webster	1		42			16	8				
36. Ames		1	811	17		297	4	2			3
37. Boone County	3	1	915			246	2			4	
38. Saylorville Reservoir		3	1474		40	482			87	1	5
39. Des Moines			410	1		239					
40. Jamaica	1		447			82					
41. Sac County	1		182	5		58	1			12	
42. Ida County	1		127			13					
Subtotal	7	7	6760	23	93	2599	2295	2	137	38	127
SOUTHERN THIRD											
43. Rathbun Reservoir		1	358			130	116	21		27	45
44. Red Rock Reservoir			163		1	66	10	19		2	1
45. Taylor County			111			19		37	60		
46. Siam-Hopkins	3		119			9		3	1		
47. Van Buren County			7			9					
Subtotal	3	1	758	0	1	233	126	80	61	29	46
TOTAL	48	49	16961	106	117	5766	3670	131	223	131	685

Pu Fi	Ho Fi	Pi Si	Am Go	Ho Sp	Eu Tr Sp
11	28	13	81	371	
	143	12	48	336	
6	29	59	84	123	
17	165	78	114	806	
42	4		82	248	
5	18	25	59	475	
5	18	2	53	272	4
3	169	40	147	1472	
5	6	33	53	475	41
47	143		132	1057	326
2	24		123	182	92
7	133	15	144	205	149
10	73	6	101	751	75
160	953	283	1221	6773	687
	24	67	149		
21	66	14	118	711	
9	33		231	394	
21	108	1	274	613	
	331		144	992	
51	562	82	916	2710	0
2	176	75	279	541	
	42	7	47	973	
2	105	4	73	454	
	124	1	59	760	
				75	
	9	1	48	297	
4	456	88	506	3100	0
15	37		57	110	
7	13		62	753	
31	78	32	97	1162	
2	161	8	107	869	
17	79	20	135	959	2
	23		50	100	
	126	1	32	1493	
7			32	18	
5	5		19	230	
4	16	8	30	69	
10	2		16	148	
20	238	15	274	1165	
9	46	21	209	1257	
13	94		175	702	
	89	3	176	394	
	10		79	311	
3	12		52	620	
4	25		49	319	
147	1054	108	1651	10679	2
10	35		189	481	
1	12		87	162	
			18	216	
			37	29	
7		12	7	85	
18	47	12	338	973	0
380	3072	573	4632	24235	689

Table 3. Species reported on three or fewer Christmas Bird Counts — 2004–2005

Species	Counts
Ross's Goose	Sioux City (1), Omaha (1), Jamaica (2)
Tundra Swan	Clinton (857)
swan sp.	Boone County (2), Red Rock (1)
Surf Scoter	Keokuk (1)
Black Scoter	Keokuk (2)
Long-tailed Duck	Clinton (2), Saylorville (1)
duck species	De Soto NWR (96)
Gray Partridge	Dubuque (5)
Ruffed Grouse	Yellow River Forest (2), Decorah (1)
Common Loon	Rathbun (1)
Great Egret	Saylorville (1)
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Cedar Rapids (1)
Northern Goshawk	Westfield (2), Cherokee (1)
accipiter species	Davenport (1), Iowa City (3), Boone County (3)
Red-shouldered Hawk	Davenport (1), Muscatine (1), Cedar Falls-Waterloo (3)
buteo species	Lost Nation (1), Taylor County (3), Siam-Hopkins (2)
Peregrine Falcon	Davenport (1), Saylorville (1)
Prairie Falcon	Westfield (1), Des Moines (1)
Sandhill Crane	Green Island (5), Princeton (2)
Iceland Gull	Muscatine (1)
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Keokuk (1), Saylorville (1)
Black-legged Kittiwake	Keokuk (1)
Snowy Owl	Iowa City (1)
owl species	Boone County (3), Van Buren County (1)
Loggerhead Shrike	Rathbun (1), Red Rock (1), Siam-Hopkins (1)
Black-billed Magpie	Westfield (2)
Fish Crow	Muscatine (1)
Marsh Wren	Keokuk (1)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Eldora-Union (1)
Townsend's Solitaire	Westfield (3), De Soto NWR (1)
Gray Catbird	Siam-Hopkins (1)
Brown Thrasher	Andalusia (1), Keokuk (1)
American Pipit	Cedar Rapids (1)
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Andalusia (1)
Eastern Towhee	Andalusia (1), Muscatine (1)
Field Sparrow	Shenandoah (14), Ida County (1)
Savannah Sparrow	Saylorville (1)
Lincoln's Sparrow	Clinton (1), Keokuk (1)
sparrow species	De Soto NWR (10), Humboldt County (5)
Western Meadowlark	Saylorville (40)
Brewer's Blackbird	Sioux City (3), Shenandoah (1), Rathbun (1)
Great-tailed Grackle	Sioux City (40)
blackbird species	Boone County (9)
White-winged Crossbill	Cherokee (3)
Common Redpoll	Yellow River Forest (10), Decorah (1), Boone County (2)

Large Congregation of Winter Bald Eagles

Jay Gilliam

On the morning of 28 November 2004, I was returning home from a trip to north-eastern Iowa to view and photograph the Tundra Swans on the Mississippi River. I had just passed through Cascade on Hwy. 151 and entered Jones County when I rounded a curve and observed a large group of birds in a farmer's field. I immediately turned around to see what they were. When I pulled over on the shoulder, I couldn't believe my eyes. The birds were Bald Eagles and I estimated there were 70 or more on the ground feeding on something. I looked around at the surrounding hillsides and trees and found many more eagles. I estimated a total of 220 Bald Eagles that I could see from the point where I was standing. They were scattered around the hillsides, either waiting their turn for a meal or digesting the meal they had just eaten. Some trees had at least 30 eagles in them and they were slowly trickling in to the feeding area, some flying 20 feet right over my head. The eagles at the feeding area were squabbling and fighting each other intensely. I watched several adults knock down an immature bird and proceed to rough it up to the point that feathers were flying everywhere! It was an amazing sight.

After returning home and reviewing my photos, I decided to try to count the number of birds that I could see in the photos. My estimate of 70 at the feeding area was low as I had one photo where I could count at least 100 birds on the ground (Figure 1). After counting the eagles on the surrounding hillsides and in the trees I concluded there were at least 300 eagles at this one location.

I've seen small groups of eagles feeding in farm fields in the winter before, but I have never witnessed something of this magnitude. Away from the large rivers (this location is approximately 30 miles from the Mississippi River) there have been no reports of eagle flocks of more than 100 birds (Bruce Ehresman, Iowa DNR, pers. comm.). Eagles become more social with each other in the winter and often congregate in areas with abundant food. Wild and domestic animal carcasses become an important source of nutrition throughout the winter. Supplemental feeding during the winter can improve survival in young and inexperienced birds, and allow adults to enter the breeding season in excellent condition (MacDonald 1995).

There are a lot of swine farms in that area of the state and it was hypothesized the eagles were feeding on dead baby pigs. Because Bald Eagles scavenge dead or dying prey in the winter, they are susceptible to contaminants such as pesticides, toxic chemicals, and lead shot that may be present in these foods (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 1993). The Wildlife Diversity team at the Iowa DNR and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) began an investigation and it was determined the landowner was a coyote hunter and had thrown all of his coyote carcasses out at that location (Pat Schlarbaum, Iowa DNR, pers. comm.). The main concern of the team at the DNR was that the eagles might be feeding on carcasses that could have contained lead shot. It only takes one unpassable lead pellet to kill an adult eagle with lead toxicity.

While I was birding along the Mississippi River in northeastern Iowa and southwestern Minnesota, I decided to do an informal eagle survey and count all the eagles that I saw along the river. I ended up with a total of 62 and was surprised by the low number that I found. Now I know where a large number of those eagles were!



Figure 1. Bald Eagles foraging in a field in Jones County, IA, 28 Nov 2004. Photograph by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA.

Acknowledgements: I greatly appreciate the opinions and input of Bruce Ehresman, Doug Harr, and Pat Schlarbaum at the Wildlife Diversity Program of the Iowa DNR and thank them for keeping me informed about the investigation into this matter.

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Northern Owl Invasion, Winter 2004–2005

Robert I. Cecil

Iowa's invasion of northern owls was somewhat more subdued than Minnesota's dramatic season, but it still produced some excitement (see front and back cover photos). The biggest news was a late report of a Boreal Owl, Iowa's first, on 14 Nov in George Wyth State Park in Black Hawk County. It was observed and photographed by Scott Garrett who, with a little help from his friends, identified it from the photo. Unfortunately, it was never relocated.

Tipped off by the Minnesota invasion, Iowa birders searched for other good owls and were rewarded with Iowa's second Northern Hawk-Owl on 14 Feb in the surprised little town of Manly in Worth County. Perhaps the most southerly of the season's hawk-owl incursion, this one remained through the remainder of the season.

Not unexpected but also successful in getting birders moving were three reports of Great Gray Owls, one on 16 Jan for a few days in Boone County, one on 14–15 Feb in Buchanan County, and one on 16–19 Feb in Dickinson County.

Not swept up in the stampede were Northern Saw-whet Owls, which appeared in normal numbers in Iowa; the most southerly were in Missouri with two on 7 Dec–30 Jan in Knox County and one on 3 Feb in Holt County.

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Boreal Owl in Black Hawk County, First Iowa Record

Scott Garrett

I met Tom Stone during the months of February and March of 2004 when he came out to stock the feeders at the bird blind at George Wyth State Park in Waterloo. As we talked about the birds that frequent the area in winter he mentioned the Northern Saw-whet Owls he sees there fairly routinely during the winter months. I told him to call me if he saw one again. Tom did call but my work schedule did not allow me to go out there so that he could show me the location of one that winter.

Tom called again early in the morning on 12 November 2004 to let me know he had seen a saw-whet again at George Wyth. I worked second shift that day, so, not wanting to miss the chance of seeing one again, I gathered my photo equipment and went right out to the park, arriving about 9 A.M. Tom had told me where he had seen the saw-whet, but I got the directions mixed up. I started down another section of trail that actually borders the area in which scattered cedar trees are located where the saw-whets have been found by Tom. I had gone only a short distance when I looked off to the right and saw a small owl 25 feet off the trail. Thinking I had found the saw-whet, I stopped and opened up my



Figure 1. First Iowa record Boreal Owl, George Wyth SP, Black Hawk Co., 12 Feb 2005. Photograph by Scott Garrett, Waterloo, IA.

tripod legs on the trail and started taking photos. The owl was on the lower of two parallel branches of a cedar tree about 4.5 feet off the ground and positioned close to the trunk. I didn't approach the owl any closer than where I was on the trail as my telephoto lens allowed me to photograph from a nice distance (Figure 1 and cover photo). Exposure on the owl wasn't the best as it was backlit from the low, hazy sun behind it and it was sitting in the shade facing north with several small twigs in front of its head.

The owl had its eyes open for the first few minutes but slowly they closed by the time I left. It made no sound during the time I was there nor did it move its position on the branch. It certainly seemed in no distress; it just seemed to be having a nice snooze in the quiet woods! Thinking I'd be seeing another "saw-whet" again out there I left after 10 or 15 minutes. Having the following two days off, I went out the next day (Saturday) in the same

area but did not relocate it. I decided on Sunday to take photos at the bird blind and that day saw Tom who showed me where he had seen a Northern Saw-whet Owl. Upon seeing it I thought how much smaller this one seemed than the one I had taken pictures of two days earlier. At the time, I didn't go back and compare the pictures of the two on the computer, just thinking I had seen two saw-whets.

On Christmas Eve as I was going to bed, I flipped through a book on owls and after seeing the image of the Boreal Owl it reminded me of just how that first owl was posed on the branch. Looking at my pictures of it on the computer I could see that it was definitely a Boreal Owl I had seen that first day. Comparing it to the saw-whet, the Boreal Owl was larger, had a pale bill, a light gray facial disk surrounded by a black rim with white spots on the black forehead. The Northern Saw-whet Owl had a dark bill, lighter brown facial disk with no dark border and white streaks on the lighter brown forehead. The bellies of both birds seemed similar to me, with chocolate-brown streaks on both birds, with the belly of the saw-whet maybe being slightly more reddish-brown, while the Boreal Owl had much more streaking.

Unaware of how rare a Boreal Owl in Iowa was, I attended the 8 February 2005 meeting of the Prairie Rapids Audubon Society in Cedar Falls and mentioned to Tom Stone and others after the meeting that I thought it was a Boreal Owl I had first seen that November day. Needless to say, they all were a bit skeptical and said that there was no documentation of one ever being seen in Iowa! After the meeting, I completed the "Unusual Bird Sighting" form on the IOU website. I have heard from Ann Johnson that the Records Committee accepted the sighting as the 410th species in Iowa.

All of this has been a great learning experience and a thrill for me, and next time I will certainly know the difference between a Boreal and Northern Saw-whet Owl!

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Birding Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area

James Durbin

Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area provides a 410-acre lake on more than 1,500 acres of land and is conveniently close to the cities of Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, and Waterloo (Figure 1). The lake offers a variety of fishing, boating, or swimming opportunities. Trails provide birders with scenic views of wooded hills, marshy areas, and meadows. The area is open year-round and provides maximum outdoor recreation activities.

TRAILS

There are 15 miles of trails for the birder, hiker, snowmobiler, bicyclist, cross-country skier, and equestrian, with connecting access to many area facilities and scenic overlooks. Pleasant Creek is also a popular site for organized dog field trials.

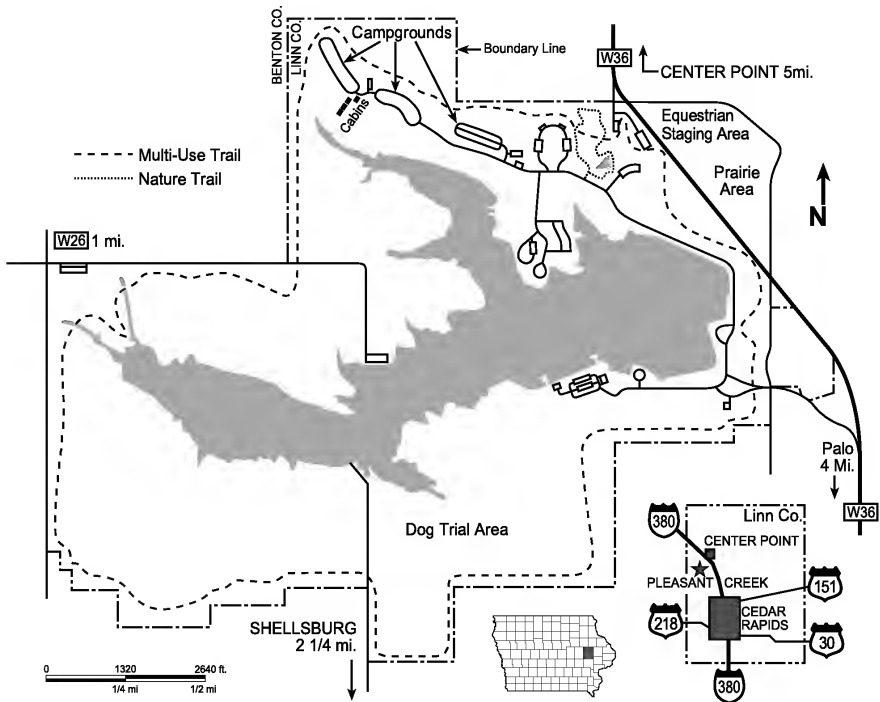


Figure 1. Map of Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area.

FISHING, SWIMMING, PICNICKING, AND BOATING

The lake is one of the highest quality fishing lakes in the region and is stocked with largemouth bass, crappie, bluegill, channel catfish, and tiger muskie. Shoreline fishing has been enhanced by the construction of jetties. Bait is available for sale at the boathouse.

Pleasant Creek is a relaxing place to spend a day at the beach. The swimming area is located on the north shore. A privately operated concession offers supervised swimming and a modern bathhouse where refreshments are available. The Pleasant Creek beach has become one of the most popular in Iowa.

Picnic areas are located on the northeast and southeast shores. Several shelters are available and may be reserved for a small fee.

Pleasant Creek Lake is one of the most popular boating spots in eastern Iowa. Four launching sites are conveniently located around the lake. These sites have a total of seven ramps for fishing, leisure boating, and sail boating access. Boats, motors, canoes, and paddleboats may be rented at the boat house. Any size boat motor may be operated at "no wake speeds."

CAMPING AND CABINS

The Pleasant Creek campground features 69 campsites, 43 electrical hookups, and two modern shower and rest room facilities. From the campground, campers have a pleasing view of much of the recreation area.

Four new camper cabins were recently added to the area. The rustic pine log cabins offer visitors a sense of pioneer lifestyle. The cabins have electricity, covered porch, and basic furnishings. Visitors must provide their own bedding, towels, cooking utensils, and other camping items. Cabins are located near the campgrounds so cabin users will have use of the shower and toilet facilities.

HUNTING

A portion of the Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area is open to public hunting. Popular species of game include rabbits, pheasants, and quail.

NEIGHBORING TOWNS

Pleasant Creek lies approximately 15 miles northwest of Cedar Rapids and 40 miles southeast of the Waterloo-Cedar Falls metropolitan area. Palo is located five miles south of the park.

BIRDING THE PARK

I have compiled a list of 217 species for the lake area from my personal sightings and input from other birders.

Pleasant Creek Lake has several habitats that attract a wide range of species for birding. In the spring as soon as the water is open, waterfowl start returning. Uncommon species such as scoters and Western Grebes are seen every couple years. Common Loons are often seen as late as early July. Pacific and Red-throated Loons have been seen in recent years. The sandy areas and the beach will usually have some shorebirds on them. A good assortment of gulls and terns can be expected during migration.

Along the trails and in the woods that are located in several areas, warblers and other migrants can be found. My list for warblers is 24 along with seven species of vireos. All of the thrushes can be found there seasonally.

If you are looking for grassland birds, look and listen in the pasture areas along Lewis Bottoms Road that is parallel to W36, which runs north out of Palo. The other area for grassland birds is in the dog trial bowl in the south part of the park. This is approximately 80 to 90 acres of grass.

Last year I did a study for the Iowa DNR and monitored the Henslow's Sparrow population located there (Figure 2). The birds arrived the first week of May and stayed until the third week of August. The highest count of singing males was 25. I was amazed at how close I was able to approach the singing birds. After reading some data on them, I found that they will nest densely if the habitat is good. Bobolinks, Sedge Wrens, Dickcissels, Grasshopper Sparrows, meadowlarks, and Eastern Kingbirds also occupy this area.

The DNR is currently working on a proposal to amend the mowing practice in the area. The practice is to mow in strips every other year. They are either going to mow in wider strips to give the birds more protection or begin mowing in halves every other year.

There is some controversy with the dog trial people as they need two 40-acre areas for their trials. The DNR is hoping to expand the grassy area so that more area is available.

The DNR is also working with the equestrians to improve the horse trails.

While in the area, you might want to visit such places as Squaw Creek Park, Matsell Bridge Natural Area, Wickiup Hill Outdoor Learning Area, Rock Island Preserve, or any of the many parks and natural areas that are located in Linn County. If you are looking for a nice place to take part in any of the activities listed above, Pleasant Creek Lake should be on your list of places to visit.

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Figure 2. Henslow's Sparrow in Pleasant Creek State Recreation Area, 12 June 2004. Photograph by James Durbin, Marion, IA.

Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*

James J. Dinsmore

The June 1955 issue was a rather thin 16 pages. The lead article by John Bliese was a discussion of some of the effects of thunderstorms and wind direction on roosting flights of Common Grackles. Although he had limited information, Bliese found that storms with mild winds coming from either side of the roosting flight resulted in either an increase in the number of birds coming to the roost or no effect. Tail winds tended either to reduce the number of birds or to have no effect on them.

Several striking photographs of shorebirds are a noticeable part of this issue. Photographer Fred W. Kent of Iowa City held a 35-mm SLR camera to a 20 spotting scope to get great magnification of the birds. For its time, the result is several very fine photographs of Semipalmated Plovers and Dunlins, species that usually are difficult to approach closely.

The spring 1955 meeting was held in Sioux City and was a joint effort with the Nebraska and South Dakota organizations. A total of 174 people attended the meeting, and Fred Pierce was recognized for 25 years of service as editor of *Iowa Bird Life*.

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Book Review, *In Search of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker*

James J. Dinsmore

In Search of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker by Jerome A. Jackson, Smithsonian Books, Washington, D.C., 2004, 294 pp, 10 color, 38 black and white ill., \$24.95

I had just started reading this book when the stunning find of an Ivory-billed Woodpecker in Arkansas hit the news. Like Jackson, I, too, had long mused about this species, dating back to childhood when I often stopped to look at a mounted ivory-billed in the local library. Iowa-native Jackson's book is mainly a personal story with an emphasis on whether ivory-billeds still survive and the numerous searches he has made to try to find a live one.

Along the way he has searched the published literature extensively and has examined most of the existing specimens. He uses this information to provide a detailed summary of the natural history, distribution, and exploitation of this species. He describes the work of some of the key players in the history of this species (Alexander Wilson, Audubon,

Arthur A. Allen, and James Tanner) to help fill in many details. He also provides information on the search for this species in Cuba in the 1980s and early 1990s. His rainy nighttime march there in 1987 in which his boots fell apart gives an indication of how obsessed he was with this species.

One of the best parts of the book is the story of his intensive, several-year search for ivory-billeds in the southern United States. Several times, both in the United States and in Cuba, he heard what he thought was an ivory-billed but he never had a good sighting of the species. Remarkably, Jackson remained optimistic that the species still survived, even though this book was published before the Arkansas find was announced and presumably before he had any knowledge of that bird. Most researchers would have given up long ago.

Besides Jackson's early ties to Iowa, the book mentions another interesting Iowa story. Of three ivory-billed specimens in Macbride Hall at the University of Iowa, one was stolen by a student in 1979. The student later wrote to *The Des Moines Register* saying that he loved the bird and planned to take the specimen on a tour of the Gulf Coast states where it was once found. That specimen has not been recovered. For those who desire more information on this species and an interesting historical prelude to the recent find, this is a good choice.

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Book Review, *The Grail Bird*

Kayleen A. Niyo

The Grail Bird: Hot on the Trail of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker by Tim Gallagher, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston and New York, 2005, 272 pp., 15 color, 3 half-tone ill., \$25.00

Shortly after the news that the thought-to-be extinct Ivory-billed Woodpecker was seen again in Arkansas, I received an announcement of a new book by Tim Gallagher written about his and his friend's quest for the bird.

Tim is the editor in chief of *Living Bird* published by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Tim had been searching for the ivory-billed with his friend, Bobby Harrison who teaches art history and photography at Oakwood College in Huntsville, Alabama. In February 2004, a friend forwarded him an e-mail posted on a canoe club listserv and Tim and Bobby decided to follow up on it. The post was by Gene Sparling, who said he had seen the ivory-billed in the White River National Wildlife Refuge in Arkansas. Tim and Bobby met Gene and began their search and the rest is history!

Tim intersperses much of the discovery tale with background on James Tanner (and an interview with Mrs. Tanner), George Lowry, David Kulivan and the Zeiss team who

searched the Pearl Wildlife Management Area in Louisiana, and others. He interviewed many researchers and people who said they had seen ivory-billeds, including Mary Scott, an attorney who quit her job in 2000, began searching for the woodpecker, and started a web site <www.birdingamerica.com> for ivory-billed seekers to post information. He writes about the highly secret search (in which he, Bobby, Gene Sparling, and David Luneau, a professor at the University of Arkansas, took part) in the White River NWR by dozens of expert birders and the several sightings by some of them. He brings the reader up to date on the secret search results as the book was going to press the end of March 2005 and just before the news was leaked prior to the Lab's announcement.

On 1 June 2005, a small group of Colorado Nature Conservancy members were invited to a breakfast and presentation by Gene Sparling, the man who first sighted the Arkansas ivory-billed, and David Luneau, the man who obtained the video of the bird. We were treated to their exciting tales of discovery and the enhanced films of the bird! It certainly was an Ivory-billed Woodpecker based on those films! As an aside, David Luneau's wife, Terri Roberts Luneau, has written a delightful children's book entitled *Big Woods Bird* published by Kury Lane, Inc. At \$8.95 in paperback, it is wonderfully illustrated by Trevor Bennett. These books and ongoing ivory-billed search information are available at <<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/>>.

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Clarification for Krider's Red-tailed Hawk Photo

Jay Gilliam received compliments from Brian K. Wheeler, well-known author of several books on raptors, on the Krider's Red-tailed Hawk front-cover photo by Jay on *Iowa Bird Life* 75(1). Brian requested additional photos from Jay to use in creating some of his forthcoming book plates, and he offered the following clarification to the identification of this bird. "I would call Jay's red-tailed "An intermediate of typical Eastern Red-tailed Hawk (*B. j. borealis*) and its pale morph, Krider's." This bird is about 90% Krider's morph. (Krider's is not a subspecies as once thought, but a pale morph of *B. j. borealis*.) It is a variant with a rufous tail that is fairly common in juvenile red-taileds (but rarely seen in Krider's types). The head and body are typical Krider's (although some are pure white-headed), but the tail has more than half of *borealis* traits. Full Krider's would be all-white on the tail or tan or rufous on the distal half; three-fourths of this bird's tail is rufous." We thank Brian for this clarification. KN, Ed.

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Spring Business Meeting, 2005

14 May 2005

The IOU spring business meeting was held at Camp Wesley Woods in Indianola. President Richard Tetrault called the meeting to order at 1:05 P.M. In attendance were Sharon Stilwell, vice president; Robert Cecil, secretary; Tammy Hertzell, treasurer; board members Carolyn Fischer, Jay Gilliam, John Rutenbeck, Linda Zaletel, and Ric Zarwell; and members of the organization. President Richard Tetrault welcomed the membership and thanked a number of members for their service and assistance.

Secretary's Report. The minutes of the fall business meeting were approved as published in IBL 74(4):184–186.

Treasurer's Report. Tammy Hertzell presented a Statement of Financial Position. Assets including Certificates of Deposit and checking and savings accounts totaled \$63,278.82 at the end of 2004. Revenues for 2004 exceeded expenses by \$2,213.76. The full financial report is published in this issue of *IBL*.

Awards. Paul Hertzell announced that in 2004 Eloise Armstrong had compiled the highest annual list of any IOU member and was awarded the *IOU News* Top Birder award. Jay Gilliam was awarded a second Top Birder award for having seen the highest percentage of his life list in 2004.

Audit. President Tetrault reported that he and Rita Goranson had conducted an audit of IOU finances and financial practices. No problems were noted.

Insurance. Ross Silcock explained that IOU has a Commercial General Liability policy, which is standard for such organizations. The policy lists coverage (members at meetings and on trips) and exclusions (natural disasters, etc.). Its cost is \$350 per year. It was noted that the policy does not cover liability of directors and officers, so Ross was asked to check on that and report to the board.

Registrar's Report. Registrar Dave Edwards could not attend. President Tetrault reported that membership is steady, but not increasing. It is a goal of the IOU to increase membership.

Publications. Ann Johnson reported that the new *IOU Checklist* was published and is available, and that the committee's budget was set. She also reported on the Iowa Birds web site, including the fact that the on-line entry for field reports is very successful and helpful for the seasonal report editors.

Records. Ann Johnson reported that there is one record remaining to be reviewed from 2004. She also reported that Tom Kent resigned and Mike Overton is joining the com-

mittee for one year to complete Kent's term. Paul Hertzell was appointed for a full term replacing Jim Sinclair.

Membership. John Rutenbeck reported that membership numbers are stable. At about 400 members, it is just below the organization's five-year average. The member sustainability rate over the past five years has been good; of those new IOU members five years ago, 70% are still members. There have been 68 members who have not yet renewed for this year. John reported that efforts to increase membership have included sending membership brochures to CBC compilers to distribute to nonmember participants. He proposed that new members be given a copy of *Birds in Iowa* and be recognized at meetings.

Projects. Jay Gilliam reported that Marlene Ehresman is the newest committee member, and that other members include Doug Harr, Tom Johnson, and Chris Caster.

Trips. Ric Zarwell reported on recent trips, including a northern Minnesota trip with a guide and 12 participants, and a Colorado trip with a guide and 15 participants. He also discussed future activities, including a trip to North Carolina on 28 July and, possibly, Iowa trips to opposite ends of the state from where IOU meetings are held. Ric has also developed a list of possible trips to be conducted during the next three years.

Fall Meeting. Sharon Stilwell reported that the fall 2005 IOU meeting will be held at Lakeside Lab at Spirit Lake on 23–25 September, and that tropical ornithologist Robert Ridgely will be the banquet speaker. She also noted that Mason City is being considered for the spring 2006 meeting. Members were also reminded of the need for volunteers at the Polk County Pelican fest on 11 September and the Rivers and Bluffs Festival at Lansing on the second weekend in November.

Old Business. There was no old business.

New Business. Jay Gilliam explained that the Projects Committee is currently an ad hoc committee and proposed that it become a standing committee, which would require amending the IOU Constitution. Jay then read proposed language to institute that change. Hank Zaletel moved that the IOU Constitution be amended to make the Projects Committee a standing committee and Ric Zarwell seconded. Rita Goranson asked whether the committee would have a regular budget, or if each request for assistance would have to come before the full board. Jay indicated that some of these details have yet to be worked out. All ayes, motion carried.

President Tetrault reported that the Publications Committee had requested a consideration of a dues increase. Ann Johnson, chair of the Publications Committee distributed "IOU Financial Health and Membership Dues," detailing membership revenues compared to publications costs. It indicated that in 2004, publications expenses exceeded membership revenues. She said the publication cost per recipient is currently about \$25, whereas the current basic membership cost is \$20. It is the goal of the committee to cover its expenses with membership revenues. Tom Kent expressed concern that a dues increase might result in a loss of members, similar to the experience of the last dues increase. Linda Zaletel noted that a recent membership survey supported a modest increase in dues.

President Tetrault asked about going to electronic publication, but Ann Johnson thought that the organization was not ready for that yet. Tom Kent noted that the very best way to increase revenue was to increase membership, not dues. The Board of Directors will continue to discuss the issue and will make a recommendation at the fall meeting.

Election of Officers. Jim Sinclair reported on the recommendations of the Nominating Committee. Sharon Stilwell was nominated for president, John Rutenbeck for vice president, Jim Fuller and Ric Zarwell for two-year terms on the board of directors, and Mike Dooley for a one-year term on the board. Election of officers followed. Tammy Hertzelt nominated Sharon Stilwell for president and Linda Zaletel seconded. All ayes, motion carried. Ric Zarwell nominated John Rutenbeck for vice president and Hank Zaletel seconded. All ayes, motion carried. For a two-year term on the board, Hank Zaletel nominated Jim Fuller and Linda Zaletel seconded. All ayes, motion carried. For another two-year term on the board, Jane Clark nominated Ric Zarwell and John Rutenbeck seconded. All ayes, motion carried. For a one-year term on the board, Jane Clark nominated Mike Dooley and Hank Zaletel seconded. All ayes, motion carried.

President Tetrault had appointed Carolyn Fischer to the board in February 2005 to fill the remaining term of Sue Spieker (2006) who resigned.

Mark Proescholdt thanked Dick Tetrault and Linda Zaletel for their service to the IOU. The membership thanked the meeting planning committee for their work in setting up a successful meeting. Mark Proescholdt thanked Paul Hertzelt, Rita Goranson, and Carolyn Fischer for their assistance to many birders in finding the Northern Hawk-Owl in Manley. Doug Harr announced that there are some Breeding Bird Atlas routes available.

Adjournment. There was no other business and John Rutenbeck moved and Ric Zarwell seconded that the meeting be adjourned. All ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Robert Cecil, secretary

Board Meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union

14 May 2005

The IOU board meeting was held at Camp Wesley Woods in Indianola. President Richard Tetrault called the meeting to order at 4:50 P.M. In attendance were Richard Tetrault, president; Sharon Stilwell, vice president; Robert Cecil, secretary; Tammy Hertzelt, treasurer; board members Carolyn Fischer, Jay Gilliam, John Rutenbeck, Linda Zaletel, and Ric Zarwell; and IOU member Sue Spieker.

Secretary's Report. The minutes were approved as published in *IBL* 75(1):51–56.

Treasurer's Report. Tammy Hertzelt provided statements for revenue and expenses. Total assets, including checking, savings, and Certificates of Deposit (CDs), totaled \$67,947.63. She also provided an account register showing withdrawals and deposits, and noted that CDs were coming due this year.

Membership Committee. John Rutenbeck distributed recommendations for increasing membership. They proposed making new members feel more welcome by recognizing them at IOU meetings and buying a number of copies of *Birds in Iowa* to present to new members. A budget for the committee was discussed. It was moved by Linda Zaletel and seconded by Ric Zarwell to appropriate \$100 for committee use. All ayes, motion carried.

Projects Committee. Jay Gilliam reported that Marlene Ehresman had been appointed to the committee.

Trips Committee. Ric Zarwell distributed his business proposal to accommodate IOU trips and also proposed several trips. President Tetrault thought that since Ric was organizing a private service to offer trips to IOU members, his membership on the committee was a conflict of interest and he should resign. No action was taken. Some board members had not had a chance to review proposed trip guidelines, so the discussion was deferred until a later date.

Fall Meeting. Sharon Stilwell had nothing new to report.

Old Business. Treasurer Tammy Hertzelt reported that the disposition of the maturing CDs had been worked out by President Tetrault and herself, and that the funds would be deposited with First Citizens National Bank, Mason City, IA, in a “Treasured CD,” which allows withdrawals during the first five days of each quarter without penalty. Minimum balance in the fund is \$1,000. If a balance of \$25,000 to \$75,000 is maintained, current deposits earn an interest rate of 3.02%, a rate that may change with the market. The new accounts will have authorized signatures of the president and the treasurer. Linda Zaletel moved and Jay Gilliam seconded that the CDs be moved to this account. During discussion, Tammy explained that it was intended that all of IOU's CDs would be moved as they matured. All ayes, motion carried.

Linda Zaletel reported on the possibility of producing a calendar of bird photos by IOU members for distribution to members and others. She learned that 500 copies would cost \$3,000 and that 1,000 would cost \$4,500. Making this a success would require sales promotion, coordination of photographers and the publisher, and finding sponsors to subsidize the project. It was also pointed out that there is a short window for sales and that there is much competition. Jay Gilliam will work with her on it. Linda also noted that they need to order more hats.

New Business. Ann Johnson requested that Mike Overton's appointment to the Records Committee be confirmed. John Rutenbeck so moved and Sharon Stilwell seconded. All ayes, motion carried.

Sharon Stilwell would like to schedule a budget meeting for October so that budgets can be set for 2006. The Story County Conservation Board office building was suggested as a possible location. The meeting will be scheduled to avoid conflict with the Midwest Birding Symposium

Adjournment. Linda Zaletel moved to adjourn and Ric Zarwell seconded. All ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Robert Cecil, secretary

Addendum to Minutes. Two awards were presented by the Records Committee on behalf of the IOU to two longtime IOU members. Tom Kent was honored for 25 years of Records Committee service, including his instrumental role in the creation of the committee and in archiving the many records reviewed by the committee. Beth Proescholdt received the first Outstanding Contribution to Field Ornithology award for 15 years of faithful service at the Grammer Grove Hawk Watch.

TREASURER’S REPORT—TAMMY M. HERTZEL

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE PERIODS ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2003 AND 2004

Current Assets at 31 December 2003		
Checking	16,595.45	
Savings	2,804.70	
CD 1997	10,208.01	
CD 8037	10,634.54	
CD 8011	20,822.36	
Total Current Assets at 31 December 2003		61,065.06
2004 Net Surplus/Deficit		2,213.76
Current Assets at 31 December 2004		
Checking	6,017.83	
Savings	5,087.67	
CD 1997	10,326.61	
CD 8037	20,793.72	
CD 8011	21,052.99	
Total Current Assets at 31 December 2004		63,278.82

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES, AND BUDGETS FOR THE YEARS
ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2003 AND 2004

Revenues	2003 Revenues	2004 Approved Budget (5/15/04)	2004 Revenues
Dues:			
Fledgling (\$12), Students, New Members	108.00		12.00
Goldfinch (\$20), Regular Membership	3,640.00		4,110.00
Bluebird (\$35)	2,517.00		4,200.00
Baltimore Oriole (\$50)	1,100.00		1,750.00
Great Egret (\$75)	225.00		525.00
Osprey (\$100)	1,200.00		1,900.00
Bald Eagle (\$250)			
Peregrine Falcon (\$500)			
Institutional	380.00		780.00
Life	500.00		200.00
Other	2,602.00		
Total Dues	12,272.00	11,300.00	13,477.00
Advertising		200.00	
Amortize life Memberships (56)		1,120.00	
Donations:			
Specified, Publications (On-line sales, member contributions)	2,000.00		1,329.00
Specified, Communications	1,090.00		
Specified, Listserv	25.00		
Unspecified	2,081.50		2,114.00
Memorials	5,000.00		110.00
Total Donations	10,196.50	800.00	3,553.00
Meeting Income	1,536.33		7,733.54
Bird Trip Income			1,200.00
Sales	2,712.91	2,000.00	1,101.62
Merchandise, T-shirts, Denim shirts, Hats, Pins, Patches, Misc.			
Sales, Designated to Publications			
On-line sales (Without Bricks, etc.)			244.33
Back Issues			7.00
Total Sales, Designated to Publications	—	—	251.33
Interest Income:			
Checking/Savings	20.42		22.39
Cert of Deposit 1997	606.70		118.60
Cert of Deposit 8037	143.53		159.18
Cert of Deposit 8011	148.30		230.63
Total Interest Income	918.95	900.00	530.80
Auctions, Designated to Publications		300.00	693.00
Special Revenue Generators			
Other			(18.54)
Transfer from General Operation Fund		500.00	
Total Revenues	27,636.69	17,120.00	28,521.75

Expenses	2003 Expenses	2004 Approved Budget (5/15/04)	2004 Expenses
Iowa Bird Line	408.72		
Standing Committees:			
Publications:			
Newsletter	2,268.41		2,447.60
IBL	9,900.00		9,143.61
Internet Service	608.50		546.11
Total Publications	12,776.91	12,000.00	12,137.32
Membership	297.25	500.00	64.42
Records	9.50	75.00	26.45
Library/Historical		25.00	
Total Standing Committees	13,083.66	12,600.00	12,228.19
Ad Hoc Committees:			
Conservation/Projects			
Trips, see above			
Total Ad Hoc Committees	—	—	—
Meeting Expenses	1,046.50		10,578.11
Bird Trip Expenses			924.50
Sales	3,387.11	1,500.00	957.01
Merchandise, T-shirts, Denim shirts, Hats, Pins, Patches, Misc. Checklists			
Outside Projects/Donations	1,060.00	1,000.00	275.50
Officers			
President		50.00	
Vice President		50.00	
Treasurer		50.00	14.84
Secretary		50.00	
Registrar/Membership	504.53	550.00	661.77
Total Officers	504.53	750.00	776.61
Bank and PayPal Fees	78.22	100.00	214.87
Insurance			
Liability		315.00	350.00
Bonding Treasurer	225.00	100.00	
Total Insurance	225.00	415.00	350.00
Auctions/Special Revenue Generators		250.00	
Others	20.00	5.00	3.20
Conservation, Education, General Fund			
Total Expenses	19,813.74	16,620.00	26,307.99
Net Surplus/Deficit	7,822.95	500.00	2,213.76

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION, 31 DECEMBER 2004

	At 31 December 2003	2004 Budget	2004 Incr (Decr)	At 31 December 2004
Current Assets				
Checking	16,595.45			6,017.83
Savings	2,804.70			5,087.67
CD 1997	10,208.01			10,326.61
CD 8037	10,634.54			20,793.72
CD 8011	20,822.36			21,052.99
Total Current Assets	61,065.06			63,278.82
Fund Balances				—
Bird-a-thon Fund	1,512.05			1,512.05
Book Royalties Fund	2,865.34			2,865.34
Endowment Fund	4,941.39			4,941.39
Project Fund	390.71			390.71
Total Endowment Funds	9,709.49	—	—	9,709.49
Publications Fund	4,286.18	12,000.00	(9,863.99)	6,422.19
Life Membership Fund	9,612.50		(1,120.00)	8,492.50
Outside Projects Fund	1,302.00	1,000.00	(275.50)	2,026.50
Total Specific Funds	15,200.68	13,000.00	(11,259.49)	16,941.19
Memorials	15,000.00		110.00	15,110.00
General Operating Fund	21,154.89	(13,000.00)	13,363.25	21,518.14
Total Fund Balance	61,065.06		2,213.76	63,278.82

Iowa Ornithologists' Union Constitution Amendment

Article V, Section 1, Sentence 2 of the IOU Constitution was amended by the IOU membership on 14 May 2005 to include Projects Committee as a standing committee. It reads as follows:

Article V. Section 1. Committees shall be standing or ad hoc. Standing Committees shall include Membership, Records, Publications, Projects, and Historical/Library.

(Constitution was approved by a vote of the general membership on 18 May 1985. Amendments to Article IV, Section 2 and Article VIII, Section 4 were approved by the membership on 29 October 1994. Amendment to Article V, Section 1 was approved by the membership on 14 May 2005.)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES (renewable yearly): Fledgling (students) \$15, Goldfinch \$20, Bluebird \$35, Oriole \$50, Egret \$75, Osprey \$100, Bald Eagle \$250, and Peregrine Falcon \$500+. Additional family members, \$4 per person. Membership dues entitle members to receive *Iowa Bird Life* and *IOU News* quarterly and to vote and hold office in the Union. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Send subscriptions, membership payments, back issue requests, or address changes to David C. Edwards, 2308 State Avenue, Ames, IA 50014 (Dave@dandje.org).

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS: Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other material relating to birds in Iowa should be sent in Word or WordPerfect to the editor. Research manuscripts will be sent for peer review. Submission of material should be by e-mail attachment or IBM-formatted 3.5" diskette; alternatively, by mail, typed or handwritten.

Photos and graphics: Submit photos and slides preferably as TIFF (*.tif) images or as high resolution JPEG (*.jpg) images in e-mail attachment, on CD, or 3.5" diskettes.

Send all materials other than seasonal field reports to Kayleen A. Niyo at Kay@KayNiyo.com or by mail to 25100 Sunset Lane, Evergreen, CO 80439. Deadlines for submission are **January 1 for winter issue (Vol. 1), April 1 for spring issue (2), July 1 for summer issue (3), October 1 for fall issue (4)**. Send seasonal field reports to field reports editors by deadlines listed on inside front cover.

IOU NEWS: Paul Hertz, Editor, 1432 East State Street, Mason City, IA 50401 (phertz@rconnect.com)

IOU WEB SITE: <<http://www.iowabirds.org>>, Ann Johnson, Webmaster. On-line resource for rare bird alerts, checklists, site guides, IOU information and membership. Support the IOU through purchases at the on-line IOU Nature Store.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT: Deadline for receipt of reports is 15 January. For forms and instructions, contact Christopher J. Caster, 4 South Ridge Ct., Coralville, IA 52241 (cjcaster@earthlink.net).

IOWA BIRDLINE: Danny Akers (warbler_1231@hotmail.com)

BIRD SIGHTINGS: Post to ia-bird@lists.iowabirds.org. Subscribe at <<http://www.iowabirds.org/main/list-serve.asp>>

ADDRESS CHANGES: Send address changes/membership subscriptions to Registrar David C. Edwards, 2308 State Avenue, Ames, IA 50014 (Dave@dandje.org).

UPCOMING MEETINGS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION: Fall 2005: 23–25 September 2005, Lakeside Laboratory, Spirit Lake; Spring 2006: 19–21 May, Clear Lake/Ventura

FRONT COVER: Montage clockwise from left: Boreal Owl (1st Iowa record, George Wyth SP, Blackhawk Co., 12 Feb 2005, photograph by Scott Garrett, Waterloo, IA), Great Gray Owl (8th Iowa record, photographed east of Madrid, IA, 16 Jan by Richard Silwell, W. Des Moines, IA), and Northern Hawk-Owl (2nd Iowa record, photographed near Manly, IA, 26 Feb 2005, by Jay Gilliam, Norwalk, IA)

BACK COVER: Northern Saw-whet Owl, Lime Creek Nature Center, 22 Dec 2004. Photograph by Harsha Jayawardena, Mason City, IA.

DESIGN: Lynn Ekblad, Ames, IA

GRAPHICS: Richard Beachler, Boone, IA



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